

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting Minutes

September 01, 2016

The following constitute verbatim transcript
of the proceedings and the minutes of the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting.

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yakupzack: Call to order. Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission September 1, 2016 Meeting. Commissioner Samani, will you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Commissioner Samani: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Angela Thomas, will you please call the roll?

Angela Thomas: Bart Yakupzack.

Chairman Yakupzack: Here.

Angela Thomas: Chad Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Here.

Angela Thomas: Bill Hogan.

Commissioner Hogan: Here.

Angela Thomas: Pat Manuel.

Angela Thomas: Bobby Samanie.

Commissioner Samani: Here.

Angela Thomas: Jerri Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: Here.

Angela Thomas: Al Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Here.

Angela Thomas: Mr. Chairman, there are 6 Commissioners in attendance. We have a

quorum. Secretary Melancon is also present today.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Ms. Thomas. Agenda Item No. 4: Adoption of the July 07, 2016 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: I received an email that I assume was shared with everybody and it gave me pause. My preference would be that we defer Agenda Items 4 and 5¹ and consider those at the October meeting. Do we need a motion? That was my motion is that we move to defer those to the October meeting.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Martin, we got a request by Commissioner to defer Agenda Item 4 and subsequently Item 5 when it comes up for consideration to be considered in the October meeting. Do we require a motion or can we simply defer those for adoption at that meeting?

Yolanda Martin: If there's no objection from the Commission, you can proceed accordingly.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any objection to deferring these to the October meeting? Let the record be notated that Agenda Items 4 and 5, Adoption of July and August Commission Meeting Minutes will be deferred to the October Commission Meeting. Agenda Item No. 6: Commission Special Announcements / Personal Privilege. Hearing none, moving on.

¹ See Exhibit 1 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Agenda Item No. 7: Enforcement Reports of August, 2016.² Captain Edward Skena.

Captain Skena: Good morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission. For the month of August, we had 6 boating incidents, 3 injuries and 0 fatalities. 577 written citations, 358 written warnings and 17 public assists. Inside your folder you'll find some news releases from some noteworthy cases that were made last month. Here's a synopsis of those news releases. Agents received a complaint about closed season shrimping in Lake Borgne near the Rigolets in St. Bernard Parish. Upon arrival, 4 Mississippi residents were cited for trawling in a closed season. 6,100 pounds of shrimp were seized and sold. In addition to the criminal fines, each subject faces 40 hours of community service and the court may revoke or suspend the violators gear licenses for one year from the date of the conviction. During such revocation or suspension, the violator will only be allowed to harvest shrimp from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring system. Enforcement agents arrested 3 St. Bernard Parish residents for taking oysters during illegal hours and the unlawfully taking oysters from state water bottoms. One of the subjects was also cited for failing to comply with personal flotation device requirements, not possessing a fire extinguisher, failure to have proper navigation lights, failure to possess commercial licenses, failure to comply with the Department of Health and Hospital's log book requirements as it pertains to oysters and not having the required vessel sanitation requirements fulfilled. Agents returned the illegally taken oysters to the water, seized one oyster dredge and a forfeiture order was placed on the vessel until disposition by the court. In addition to those criminal fines, each subject faces 40 hours of community service, forfeiture of their oyster harvester license for up to one year and only allowed to harvest oysters from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring

system. Two Louisiana men were ordered to pay a total of \$38,776.00 in criminal fines for deer hunting violations that occurred in February of 2016 in East and West Feliciana Parishes. The 2 subjects were also ordered to pay a total of \$6,498.00 in civil restitution to the Department for the replacement value of the illegally taken deer. Agents received a complaint about the subjects illegally harvesting deer and began an investigation. The investigation revealed that the subjects illegally killed deer from February 1st through February 8th by taking deer during a closed season and illegal hours, hunting from a moving vehicle and taking deer from a public road. Additionally the subjects were cited for possession for illegally taken deer, intentional concealment of illegally taken wildlife, failing to comply with deer tagging regulations and discharging a firearm from a public road. One rifle was seized and each subjects' hunting privileges were revoked for 5 years. The 2 were also cited for illegal deer hunting activities in East Baton Rouge and Livingston Parishes. The 2 men have yet to appear in court for those charges. During the August flood, agents worked in the following parishes conducting search and rescue missions: Tangipahoa, Livingston, Washington, St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Lafayette, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Vermilion, Acadian, St. Landry and Ascension Parishes. Enforcement agents rescued 3,166 people and 612 pets. This concludes the Enforcement Report unless there are any questions.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions for Captain Skena? Thank you Captain Skena.

Captain Skena: Thank you, sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda Item No. 8: Consideration of a Resolution to Commend the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and

² See Exhibit 2 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Fisheries, Enforcement Division.³ Commissioner Al Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission and people in the audience. After having come up to Denham Springs and Baton Rouge following the rain and flooding situation had occurred earlier in August and seeing all the damage and everything and watching news reports, I felt it was a good idea to put together a Resolution to the Department for its good work. If it's ok with the Chairman, I'd like to read the Resolution to everyone right now.

Chairman Yakupzack: Please do.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you.
{Commissioner Sunseri, reading aloud the Resolution to Commend the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division}

"To commend the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its dedicated personnel for their outstanding and exemplary efforts during the recent historic flood.

WHEREAS, after unprecedented rainfall in a very short period of time, portions of Louisiana experienced serious flooding, power outages, road closures, and other catastrophic damage. As a result of this historic flood, during a four day span August of 2016, decimated several Louisiana parishes, many cities, and the homes and businesses of countless citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division, agents performed search and

rescue operations that helped save 3,152 people and 612 pets from flood waters between August 13-17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents have participated and performed exceptionally well in search and rescue missions for hurricanes Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac; as well as other localized flooding events, including the March 2016 flooding occurrence in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, search and rescue missions in populated areas are inherently more dangerous than those that take place in navigable waterways; and in spite of severe weather and unusual urban and suburban terrains, countless underwater obstacles, and very little preparation or time, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement division persevered in performing these outstanding missions with little to no sleep both day and night; and

WHEREAS, more than seven trillion gallons of water fell over eight days with some Louisiana communities receiving more than 22 inches of rain; and

WHEREAS, thirteen lives were lost, an estimated \$110 million in agricultural losses sustained, and 60,000 homes in Louisiana were flooded and damaged; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division's August flood rescue statistics included the following efforts by parishes affected:

*Tangipahoa 305 people and 108 animals
Washington 3 people
Livingston 214 people and 82 animals
St. Helena 25 people
East Baton Rouge 1,442 people and 230 animals*

³ See Exhibit 3 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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*Iberia 41 people and 3 animals
Lafayette 837 people and 114 animals
East Feliciana 49 people and 5 animals
West Feliciana 2 people
Vermilion 98 people and 28 animals
Acadia 24 people and 4 animals
St. Landry 22 people and 14 animals
Ascension 90 people and 19 pets
Total 3,152 people, 612 pets; and*

WHEREAS, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its personnel throughout the entire event, despite their own personal hardships, provided unwavering support to the citizens and communities in desperate need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognize the exceptional performances of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its personnel during this unprecedented flooding event; and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledge and extend its heartfelt gratitude for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its personnel's tireless labor and devotion to the citizens of Louisiana while in harm's way.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby acknowledge, honor and commend all personnel, agents, or other

employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries who served beyond the call of duty, for their bravery, dedication, and persistence in searching for, rescuing, and otherwise assisting our citizens with finding safety for themselves, their families, and their pets; and for giving comfort and aid to the distressed citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission graciously thank all personnel, agents, or other employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for all that they do for the State of Louisiana."

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Commissioner Sunseri. I'd like to open the floor for a motion to adopt this Resolution as read.

Commissioner Courville: So moved.

Commissioner Hogan: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: A motion by Commissioner Courville, a second by Commissioner Hogan. All in favor.

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion passes.

Commissioner Courville: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I think a round of applause is in order.

{Applause}

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, again, Commissioner Sunseri for doing such a nice job of documenting such a serious and

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exemplary action by this Department. I want to suspend the rules for just a second. I'd be remiss if I didn't go back to something that I normally would have held for Special Announcements or Personal Privilege. But I'd like to recognize from LSU the school of Renewable Natural Resources, Dr. Luke Laborde is here today with his Natural Resources Policy class. As you all know this board, this commission, is charged with policy making and budgetary control so what an important aspect of state government. We've always considered Dr. Laborde and LSU a cooperator with this Department and, certainly, a friend. So thank you, Dr. Laborde, for being here. And to the students who came today, thank you all for participating. We are happy to have you here. Moving along, Agenda Item No. 9, we are going to hear Consideration of Resolution to Add Property to Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area.⁴ We are going to hear from Biologist, Tommy Tuma.

Tommy Tuma: Good morning Mr. Chair and other Members of the Commission. Appreciate your time. I'm here today to present and request adoption of a Resolution adding certain property to the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area. This Resolution is to confirm the selection of lands acquired by MOA and subsequent licenses from the U.S. Army comprising 23,300 acres, more or less, including all water bottoms located within the said boundaries of the WMA to be added to the Peason Ridge WMA. If you look on the map, the yellow is the existing WMA boundary. Everything in red is what's covered in this Resolution. It will be included and added to Peason Ridge. You can see that there are several inholdings so it's very strategic in the U.S. Army. They use it as the training area so their acquisition was very strategic to kind of fill in of the existing Peason Ridge and add more property adjacent to it. This Resolution also reaffirms the current selection of 51,004 acres,

more or less, including all water bottoms contained within the WMA. With addition of these acres, Peason Ridge WMA is now 74,304 acres, more or less, and it is located in Vernon, Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes. And I ask you for favorable consideration of the Resolution with the attachments.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. Tuma. Any question or discussion with regard to this Agenda Item? Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move this Resolution and all documents favorably.

Commissioner Samani: I second.

Chairman Yakupzack: We've got a motion by Commissioner Sunseri and a second by Commissioner Samani to adopt the Resolution as presented, as written. Is there any public comment? I'd like to make a comment before the vote of the Commission. Noting it was unfortunate that this Department, that we weren't able to consider a relationship with the landowner on a very popular WMA in North Louisiana called Jackson Bienville. I have to comment that the Department went above and beyond and tried very hard to make that situation work and for reasons beyond the Department's control it was not in the cards for that to continue to be a WMA. I recognize that was about 25,000 acres and this, although our state's sportsman will have to work around the activities of the Fort, which I have to say now is a lot more convenient through website, through the internet than before, it used to be you would drive up to the Fort. You'd have to go on a Friday from wherever you lived to that area to find out if you could even hunt there the next Saturday. Now that's available online and much more accessible and convenient. So to end my point, it is that this is 23,000 acres that will now be available and the Department's proud to be able to offer that to the sportsman of this state and we hope that sportsman can enjoy it much in the same

⁴ See Exhibit 4 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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ways they enjoyed Jackson Bienville. Unless anyone else has anything else, I'd like to hear all those in favor.

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, Resolution passes. Thank you Mr. Tuma.

Tommy Tuma: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda Item No. 10, again from Biologist Tommy Tuma. Consideration of a Resolution to Add Property to Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area.⁵

Tommy Tuma: Yes, sir. Mr. Chair and Commissioners. Secondly, I request adoption of a Resolution adding certain property to the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area. In your packets you have the Resolution. I regret to inform you that based on the information I just received from Assistant Secretary, Randy Myers, the acreage is actually over 600. So we will make those adjustments and correct that Resolution and get that for you, Chairman Yakupzack to sign. I think our General Counsel, Yolanda Martin, will kind of head that up. So I'll just modify my presentation to say this Resolution is to confirm the selection of the lands acquired by MOU from the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of State Parks, comprising 600 acres, more or less, including all water bottoms located within said boundaries, to be managed exclusively as a WMA, or to be managed exclusively as Tunica Hills WMA. This Resolution also reaffirms the current selection of 5,906 acres, more or less, including water bottoms contained within the WMA boundary. With the addition of these acres, Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area will now be 6,500, more or less, and it's located

in West Feliciana Parish. And, again, I do not have a map. I'm sorry about that. Since the adjustments and the -- we'll provide a map, or our GIS or our Land Assessment Lab will, but I ask for your favorable consideration of this Resolution with the amended attachments.

Commissioner Samani: So moved.

Chairman Yakupzack: Motion by Commissioner Samani.

Commissioner Courville: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: Second by Commissioner Courville. Any public comment? Would you come up front and state your name?

Bailey Jones: My name is Bailey Jones. I'm with the R&R Department from LSU. I don't believe any of you will be opposed to this but I do believe it's a great Resolution. With the college students, Tunica Hills has become very popular and I think it's very important that we spend it. It's become a really great thing, so I think it's a really great Resolution that you guys are hopefully going to pass. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you very much for your support and comments. I do want to note that I recognize that there's a typo and that we can work through that. I want to encourage if this Commission doesn't have an objection and we've got a motion on the table that it is important that we pass this subject to the typographical error being corrected because we are on the eve of hunting season and this is an additional 600 acres that would become available to the public at this management area on October 1st when I think some very popular hunting seasons open. Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Tuma, for the press release, you're going to have an attached map that goes with this, right? At some point.

⁵ See Exhibit 5 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Tommy Tuma: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Courville: Before going out, you maybe can have an updated Tunica map.

Tommy Tuma: Yes, sir. Assistant Secretary Randy Myers just handed me this. So our GIS guys will digitize it and they'll show the existing WMA boundary and include the addition.

Commissioner Courville: Ok, great. And then you can include all of that in the press release that will go out at some point.

Tommy Tuma: Correct. Yes, sir. We certainly will.

Commissioner Courville: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, we can probably just strike in the second "Whereas" and the fourth "Whereas" and put the correct numbers. Is that right?

Tommy Tuma: Yes, sir. That's what we'll do. And then we'll modify the attachments.

Commissioner Sunseri: What is that number again, just for the record?

Tommy Tuma: 258 plus 339, so that's -- that's the two tracts. They're adjacent to one another. They acquired them in tracts and that's how the legal descriptions come to us so one tract is 258 acres and the other one is 339. So it's going to be over 600 acres.

Randy Myers: We need to make sure you're comparing survey and deed compared to what our GIS map is saying. That's why we know it's over 600 acres but when we get the exact we'll have to compare those numbers. Because sometimes what you get deeded and what GIS is showing depends on where you actually put that

line. So we'll make sure that that's corrected and get the correct acreage to you.

Commissioner Sunseri: So this Resolution that would be the only changes to it. That acreage. That's correct?

Tommy Tuma: Correct.

Commissioner Sunseri: That's good. Thank you very much, Mr. Tuma.

Chairman Yakupzack: I'd also like to comment that I recognize that this transfer, assignment of land, comes from, as Mr. Tuma stated, the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of State Parks. So I'd like to, on behalf of the Commission, thank that agency for working together with this agency to provide maximum opportunity for our sportsman of our state. If there's no other comment.

Secretary Melancon: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Yakupzack: Secretary Melancon, please.

Secretary Melancon: I want to note that former Secretary Barham, who heads up State Parks now, has been working with us to look at those properties that are underutilized that they will not be able to financially maintain so that we can see if we can pick up additional acreage going forward. So I'd like to commend he and CRT for that.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Secretary Melancon. All those in favor of the motion on the floor to adopt this Resolution, as amended.

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion to adopt the Resolution, as amended, passes. Agenda Item No. 11. We'll hear from Biologist Jeff Marx. We will receive

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and consider a Notice of Intent for the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program.⁶

Jeff Marx: Good morning Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Thanks for your time this morning. I'm here to discuss today our derelict crab trap removal program and some of the 2017 recommendations that we have this year. Basically what you have before you, the Notice of Intent, is going to modify the openings or the closed areas for crab trap closures so we can pick up derelict or abandoned crab trap gear. The Commission has to designate the area of the trap closure. Also who will pick up the traps, disposal sites and dates of the trap closure. As y'all remember in July, you passed a Resolution to alter the Blue Crab Harvest Rules and Regulations by having a 30 day closure starting the 3rd Monday in February for 30 days and to restrict the harvest of immature females. This closure, what we are doing here is going to give the Department the authority to collect crab traps at that time. We are going to work on getting some authorization, most likely in the future, about if we do have a seasonal closure to the use of crab traps of commercial harvest is to automatically build in an authorization for us to pick up traps during that closure cause it may be a different month in the future. We don't know. So here are the historic crab trap closure date sites. This past season we had two different clean-ups, both resulting in a total of 2,500 traps removed from 2 different areas. The first one we had was in Lake Pontchartrain Basin. We worked with Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and the CCA. Collected 1,386 traps in that area. There was a lot of help. It was a good clean-up. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation did a lot of work after the volunteer day during the 14 day closure that we had, or 10 days I think it was. They worked extremely hard with our Department personnel, as well. The next trap clean-up was in the Barataria Basin. This is a shot from it. You can see we had a lot of traps there, as well. In that area we

worked with Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the CCA and we actually had a couple of commercial crabbers come and assist us on the volunteer day, which was a big help. You can see in this shot, the gentleman on the right is one of the commercial crabbers. Those guys have the gear and the vessels to do a lot of work, catch a lot of trap. They know the area best and I think that's a good thing to get those commercial fishermen involved. So a big thanks out to all those folks that helped with those clean-ups. So on to next year, on to February of 2017. Since we already have the closure in place, pending its approval by the House and Senate through their Natural Resource Committees, we're going to look at having two separate closures, 16 day closures which is allowed in 56. We're allowed for 16 days to close geographical areas of the state. So you see there, the East part would close February 20th, which is the third Monday in February, and then it would last for 16 days. Then on the West side of the state, we would close March 6th, that would go 16 days for the last 30 days of that closure. So basically what you're looking at, volunteer day wise, we would try and have in the East, probably partnering with some other agencies. Either Parish governments, St. Bernard Parish has given some interest in to holding some clean-ups. Most likely that'd be that first Saturday of the closure, February 25th, with a fallback Saturday, March the 4th, in case of bad weather. So basically what would happen, that area would close, any remaining traps are considered abandoned, LDWF, or designees, may retrieve traps. If we appoint Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation again, for example, they could have a clean-up area for themselves and work it. Traps can be removed half an hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. The traps are supposed to be destroyed so they can't be possessed outside of the closure area. Traps must be brought to designated disposal sites and those we are going to do as the time period gets closer. We don't know what, where we may be having volunteer days, where we may be doing actual clean-ups. There is a shot of the area close-up. The reason we did it

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in this two big chunks is we have 3 regional offices; one in Lacombe and two of our regions work out of New Orleans. Basically down in Barataria and the lower part of the Pontchartrain Basin. So we'll have 3 offices working, cleaning up at that time, all over really. The second closure will be to the West. Again from March 6th to March 21st. The volunteer day would be March 11th, that's the first Saturday of that 16 day closure. Same rules apply. Remaining crab traps are considered abandoned, LDWF is allowed to pick them up, or our designees, and then they'll be brought to designated disposal sites. And that is a shot, again, of the area. At this time, I'd like to take any questions you may have about the closure. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions for Mr. Marx? What's the pleasure of this Commission?

Commissioner Courville: I move to move forward with the Notice of Intent.

Chairman Yakupzack: The motion on the floor to adopt the Notice of Intent as written by Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Samani: I second.

Chairman Yakupzack: A second by Commissioner Samani. Do we have any public comment on this item? No public comment. All those in favor?

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion passes. Thank you Mr. Marx.

Jeff Marx: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda Item No. 12: To Receive the 2016 Oyster Stock Assessment⁷ from Biologist Steve Beck.

Steve Beck: Thank you Commissioners. I'm going to summarize here the results of the 2016 oyster stock assessment sampling efforts we conducted. An overview of the presentation, basically we are going over the historical harvest, our management goals, the oyster stock size for this year, how that stock size differs across the state and then conclude with our this year's oyster season recommendations. So when you look at this past year's oyster harvest you can see we are above the long term average. So this graph shows pounds of meat harvested in millions by year. So cross the "X" axis is year and it's split by public and private landings. So the black bars indicate landings from private leases and the white bars indicate landings from public grounds. You can see this year we have record private landings and an increase in public landings over last year. We are looking at this data. There's somethings that can contribute to the record levels that we are seeing. One of which could be possible reporting of mini-stacks as standard stacks which could inflate our estimates. There could be more licenses being sold. There could be a larger percentage of oyster men reporting landings with an actual license number not changing. And our economist is looking closer in to this, Jack Isaacs, and he should have a report available soon. When we manage this resource, our goals are to conserve and promote the wise use of this resource. Essentially we provide seed oysters for transplant to private leases and sack oysters for market sales. The goals that we look at are often more long term compared to short term, so we are always hoping for more oysters next year, which might mean taking less oysters this year. How do we manage? When it comes down to it, most directly is cultch planting. That's actually adding oyster habitat to the water, provides a place for oysters to settle and

⁷ See Exhibit 7 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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grow. Followed by harvest restrictions, sack limits, etc., and gear restrictions. A lot of this depends on enforcement so we can set the rules but if the rules aren't followed the effectiveness is severely decreased. Each year we recommend seasons and we can break up those seasons by area and type of harvest. And then finally, the crux of our management is the biological sampling. What we do to actually determine our stock size. With that our stock assessment sampling is always done in July. We currently have 112 sampling sites across the coast and that equates to about 560 individual samples. The goal of this sampling is to get a representative coverage of an area and to provide us an index so which we can follow trends. While the absolute value of the stock might differ, the trends are very important. And with that we want to make sure that our stations stay representative so we'll observe the fleet. If they are fishing in an area that we are not sampling, we will explore that area. We conduct extra sampling on our own and we shift stations and add stations, if needed, to better characterize that resource. So the results of this year's stock assessment show that we had another year of decrease by 19% from the previous year. If you look at the long term average, our stock is about 72% below the long term average. One problem of looking at long term averages is that the more bad years you have the lower your long term average. It's called shifting base line. That's one thing to be cautious about when looking at the long term average. Now this graph, since 2010, includes Sabine Lake estimates. We weren't sampling Sabine Lake before 2010, so these recent years are actually larger than they should be compared to the previous years. So when you remove Sabine Lake the situation is a little lower than when you include it. We are kind of flat lined compared to 2015 across the rest of the state and we are even lower, 81% below the long term average. This graph is basically the same thing, only split up by seed and sack oysters. Seed oysters abundance is the black bars and the line represents sack oysters. This data includes Sabine Lake data from 2010 on. You can see we have a slight decrease

overall in seed and sack and, as well, total. Once you remove Sabine Lake, we are actually pretty flat line compared to last year. You can see once the stock size gets very low one area of high abundance can really drive the state wide trends. We break up our management in to our field offices. We have essentially 7 CSAs and 5 field offices and each manager is involved with organizing these sampling efforts and is very knowledgeable in their particular area. When you break the sack assessment up by these areas you can see this graph, start with the red. The red blocks indicate areas where we saw a decrease in abundance from last year. The green blocks indicate where we saw an increase in abundance. So you can see most areas for seed and sack oysters were declined as opposed to last year. The green areas are much fewer. The seed percentage column, the proportion of that resource as it relates to the total state. So you can see Area 1 North holds about 55 percent of the total state wide seed resource. So this is just another way to look at that. The bar graphs show the proportion that each area contributes to the total whole. You can see most of the resources locate in Mississippi Sound. You can see Calcasieu and Sabine has a lot of resource but that's, again, driven by the abundant resource in Sabine Lake. An overall summary of our stock assessment, by area, I can go in to detail in any of these areas, if requested. We saw an overall decrease in 19%. Area 1 North in Hackberry Bay, those areas were near long term average. Most of our resource is Mississippi Sound. We saw substantial decline in Sister Lake. The lowest levels we observed in 30 years. Calcasieu Lake, the East side has been closed for the past 5 - 6 years and we're slightly recovering. We've tweaked our sampling a little over there, we've added a station. So recovery is kind of an exaggeration, but we are seeing slightly more resource on that side. West Cove has been harvested in the past. The fleet has been concentrated in West Cove and we've seen declines over the past 5 - 6 years. Even though last year we decreased the sack limit and had decreased harvest, we still saw a decline in the

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stock this year and the harvest percentage has gone way up, which is a warning sign. Red flag, if you will. So with that, our season recommendations by area are as follows: For Area 1 North we are proposing opening all the public seed grounds East of the River, North of MRGO, except Drum Bay, on September 7th. And that'd be for bedding only. And then we would re-open this area to sacking only on November 14th. The thought with doing it that way was to allow oyster men in there to work the resource, turn the shell over, get some resource before the spat set so then we'd have some rest time in-between the market season to allow some oyster grow and recovery. We're out there sampling today. We're prepared to delay. We've gotten reports of mortality from oyster men. We've seen some indications in some brief sampling but our full regularly scheduled sampling is today. We're going to get some results at the end of the day so we may be prepared to delay the opening of that area if we see mortalities are a large spat set. Area 1 South, we are proposing to close those areas of the river South of MRGO. The resource in that area is extremely limited. We are down to 3% our historical level in that area, most of the reef has been degraded to scattered shell hash or is buried all together. We saw extremely low resource limited to just above Mozambique Point and way out into the bay. So very little resource observed there and so that's why I'm recommending a full closure in that area. Then we're required by law to open the American Bay, Bay Long area as a sacking only area. That's specified in the law that we will open that to sacking. We propose to open that November 14th, despite little resource in the area. Little Lake and Barataria Bay, moving over to that area, we recommend a full closure for those two areas due to little to no resource. Hackberry Bay, we discussed this at the Oyster Taskforce and we went with their recommendation of a 1-day bedding season on November 14 and then after that day it'd be open to sacking. Moving westward, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien and Lake Felicity and Deep Lake, we recommend a full closure due to little to no resource present. Most

resources located on small Lake Chien cultch plant. Sister Lake, as I mentioned, has extremely low amount of resource, the lowest in 30 years. However, this is also its typical biannual closure. It typically closes every other year and this is one of those years. We definitely support keeping that closed this year. And we were going to propose opening Bay Junop and the Lake Mechant area on September 7. We're going to watch those areas closely. They typically don't have very much production, but they've never had very much production, so we'll likely close those areas relatively quickly. And the Vermillion Atchafalaya Bay area, we propose opening September 7. This area also has typically very low production but we also see mortality before that, but most of the seed oysters can get to market size so we propose opening that to allow oyster in the area to make some use of that seed if the oysters are going to die off anyway. And due to the situation we've seen in Calcasieu Lake, the continued declines and the larger percent harvest that we've observed, we recommend a full closure of Calcasieu Lake as well as Sabine Lake. And some additional recommendations that we're including to help enforce sack limits. These first four items are the same as last year but we added two more, so I'll just go through them. Number 1 is no sacks or other containers allowed on bedding vessels. Number 2, vessels are prohibited from harvesting seed and market on the same day. When harvesting on public grounds, all oysters on board are deemed to have been taken from the private ground or public ground. Cargo vessels are not subject to the possession limits and are not allowed to harvest at the same time. These two new ones that enforcement requested that we include are prior to leaving the public grounds. All oysters must be sacked, tagged and recorded in a log book. If a vessel is located on seed ground at night, it must have all dredges unshackled. We implemented those last year for the brief Sister Lake spring season that we opened up. This enables enforcement to do their job. So that's it. I have more detailed

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information on any particular area. And with that I will take any questions.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri?

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you Mr. Chairman. And thank you Steve for the report. At this time, no questions, but I wanted to ask did the chairman of the Oyster Taskforce put a card in to speak?

Chairman Yakupzack: That's correct. If the Commission doesn't have any questions for Biologist Steve Beck right now, what I would recommend, if there's no opposition with the Commission, that I've got multiple public comments on this issue. I suggest that we take public comments first before any motion practice pursues.

Commissioner Sunseri: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, that we do have that.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, yeah. But, Mr. Beck, if you will stay close, you may have questions to answer. But at this time we'll move to public comment on Agenda Item No. 12.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'd ask that the chairman of the Oyster Taskforce speak first. Mr. John Tesovich.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Sunseri. Mr. Tesvich, welcome.

John Tesvich: Thank you members of the Commission, Mr. Chairman, Secretary. We, at the Oyster Taskforce also had a presentation by Biologist, Mr. Beck. And there was significant discussion about all these proposals, and dealing with the specific areas. We had a couple of things that come up where we had a difference of opinion with the original presentation. And, as Mr. Beck said, we actually agree on all of the matters now. Since Hackberry we had change to the original presentation. But we're in agreement with all of these sections except for

Calcasieu Lake. We have a significant contingent of people that harvest in Calcasieu Lake. Calcasieu Lake has a member on the Oyster Taskforce and they have their own Oyster Taskforce for Calcasieu Lake. And they recommended that we open Calcasieu Lake, that we have a seven sack limit. They are telling us that there are oysters there, there is resource. And the taskforce, upon discussing this issue, moved to recommend that Calcasieu Lake also be opened on November 1 for the normal season on both sides of the lake. That's the recommendation from the Oyster Taskforce that was passed by the Oyster Taskforce. We feel that seven sack limit is a limit that restricts overharvesting, that while fisheries, the biologists, have time to monitor the situation, ongoing, as harvest. And they can close any areas that feel imperiled. We just think that they're telling us that there are more resources out there than the traditional square meter sample they're showing. There are other oysters in other areas. And I believe they have some information to that regard. They're going to be speaking on this issue also. But the taskforce in general just we agree on everything except the Calcasieu Lake. If there are any questions I'd be glad to answer. We do have people with difference of opinion. I think you'll hear some other areas being discussed. And, and I'll be glad to offer any information regarding that as far as the difference of opinion if there should be any questions about it and any recommendation that you have on the board.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Tesvich.

John Tesvich: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions? Commissioner Sunseri?

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Tesvich, there's been some reports of recent large spat set on reefs in the Area 1 North area and a suggestion that that area not open on the 7th and open later in the year, maybe on the 14th, depending on the Secretary.

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Since we have a couple of areas that will open on schedule as required by law, I just wanted to know if you had heard anything of that nature yourself from any of the constituency that you represent, and your thoughts on that?

John Tesvich: As far as, Area 1 North, I have heard information about certain areas dying off. There are certain areas that have suffered apparently from hypoxia, the dead zones. So we lost some resource in there. As far as a spat set I do not have any credible information about any new spat set in that area. And, again, what I heard from Mr. Beck was that they are going out there and they will have an assessment. And should there be a spat set or a continued die-off if the oysters are dead and dying then they can always keep that area closed. And same goes with significant spat set. But they are out there today, that's what I heard him say. And I would rely on their information instead of hearsay. We hear all kinds of things.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you.

John Tesvich: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Next up to speak; and I'll just remind you guys that I have several comment cards here. We'd like to keep presentations to 5 minutes or less if at all possible. I'll try to give you a warning if we look like we're going to exceed that time limit. First up, or next up rather, is Mr. Ryan Mallory that would like to speak with regard to this agenda item.

Ryan Mallory: Good morning. We have a viable and very sustainable fishery in Cameron and Calcasieu Lake. I mean even the biologist showed there's been higher landings and we still showed a positive influx in the fishery. And you're going to close Calcasieu Lake and we're on a seven sack limit. Even if there's 40 boats that's 280 sacks a day. You're going to open areas that show far less stock and you're going to open them to a 50-sack limit. You could have five boats come in and do what a whole

community produces in a day. And not to mention, in the two recent meetings we attended where the biologist showed us a reef that had 10 acres that showed substantial 14,000 sacks from their study. They pulled their samples from six sample sites in a lake that's 3,300 acres. So roughly they're saying per sample site that covers 500 acres. How can you conclusively say you have to have far more test sites, far more sample sites? Even if you took five samples from each site, at best, you could have 60. If you even added more sites to 3,300 acres you do not have enough data to be conclusive on the stock. Impossible. Because just like I said, in 3,300 acres they're saying that we had 47,000 sacks, but in one lake on 10-acre reef they're saying there's 14,000 sacks. We and the fisherman, like with the crab trap abandonment program, the oystermen are willing to go out with these biologists. I mean the best knowledge you can receive is local knowledge. Granted you can take them to the best spots, but you got to take the good with the bad. What we're saying is if you can get five to eight fishermen to go out on their time and their dime with their vessels to do this, what do you have to lose? Just the biologist's time. So, I mean, it's just not a fishery that you're shutting down, it's a community. There's far more to it than just shutting it down, it really is. Even the biologist stated at the last meeting, he's showing vast salinity intrusion into the lakes. There's nothing been mentioned what to address that issue. And he even said he pulled the graph out, he is showing the models going further out where the oysters are. Well he knows those oysters are further out from the ship channel where that salinity's high, but yet none of his sample sites have changed. He put two sites out of six sites to cope with that. But, nonetheless, you still have the bad sites. You just can't take the bad and use that against us. You have to take what we have that's good as well to factor in to get what we really have. And I just don't see how you could feasibly close it when we had 30 to 40 percent of the state's stock and we're on the lowest limit. Thank you.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Mallory.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman? Can I ask Mr. Mallory a question?

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri, you can.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mallory, are you a fisherman from Calcasieu Parish and work in the Cameron area?

Ryan Mallory: Yes sir.

Commissioner Sunseri: And have you fished there your whole life?

Ryan Mallory: No, no. I moved from Florida. I had oystered in Florida and the same thing happened to us. They regulated us out of business. And we opted to get a lease. And if you've read in the recent years we've had vast algae blooms that devastated us.

Commissioner Sunseri: So what is your recommendation?

Ryan Mallory: I would, even at optimal conditions, if you got 35 vessels on 7 sacks a day you're not going, I think there was 23,000 sacks. So if you're stating there's 47,000 sacks you're fishing at 50 percent of the capacity.

Commissioner Sunseri: I understand. I appreciate it. Thanks for answering my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ryan Mallory: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Next up to speak, Mr. Lerlene Rodrigue. Good afternoon. Or good morning rather. It feels like we're there but we're not there yet.

Lerlene Rodrigue: I'm on the Calcasieu Oyster Taskforce, Cameron and I'm also a female oyster

dredger in Calcasieu Lake. Last year 3 out of 5 days in the week biologists have stopped by our boat and talked to us. I'm a woman in Calcasieu Lake. I can dredge my load in 15 minutes but it takes me 2 hours to cull it. There's oysters there and we keep telling them there is oysters in Big Lake. There's no reason to make a community die for these numbers. I mean seven sacks a day. What we're asking you all is to please open those sides for us so our communities in Cameron can survive for the winter. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Next up, Ms. Belinda Miltenberger. Please state your name and address.

Belinda Miltenberger: Hi, I'm Belinda Miltenberger. I'm with Cameron Fisheries in Cameron and I'm also a member of the Oyster Taskforce Council in Cameron. We buy a large part of the oysters from Cameron. This last year with the seven sacks we've seen the time it takes the fisherman to harvest the oysters has by 1:00 I have 40 boats in. So they're catching them quick. They're not having any problems finding them. The oysters are actually a better oyster than they have been, still on the west side. According to the numbers we harvested, last year the total for Cameron Parish according to the biologist was 24,000 sacks. The estimate of sacks left in Calcasieu Lake is over 47,000 sacks. Previous to that our harvest was 33,000 sacks, just my business. That's not for Cameron Parish the year previous to that. So our numbers have decreased significantly. We're trying everything we can to keep this up but also, on the east side. At the beginning we were told this lake would be closed for 3 years. Everything was dying, there's no oysters, we need 3 years to let it go. See if it grows back. We're going on 6 years now. They can't give us a reason why the numbers aren't coming back. So before everything dies, let our fisherman go for a month, January, February, and see what's out there. See the quality of the oysters, see if we can find them, because their test data is flawed. They're taking, and this comes from the biologist, well it's hard to establish a new site

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because we have nothing to compare it to. We go back 30 years and we're using 30 years of data and that's how we get out test sites. But in those 30 years Cameron Parish has suffered two hurricanes, major hurricanes. We've suffered the oil spill. There's changes. So with those changes your data also has to change. You have to go with the flow. We're just asking for more sites to be added, testing wise. We're willing to hire biologists ourselves to dispute that. Anything we can do to keep a community alive we're going to do. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mr. Anthony Theriot. State your name and address please.

Anthony Theriot: My name's Anthony Theriot. I'm from Cameron, Louisiana. I'm also on the Oyster Taskforce. I've been fishing in Cameron my whole life. We went to the seven-sack last year. The year before it was ten sacks but it would take you about 4 hours for ten sacks. Last year it was taking about two for seven. And like they said, they would come about every 3 days out of 5, ask you how long it was taking you and everything else. And we would tell them that the oysters are looking way better. We're not understanding. You all keep saying that there's a decrease but we're seeing an increase. And I don't know much about the test sites and all that. I mean we've offered several times in meetings to bring them out there and show them. Like I told them that I had 45 spots that I fished last year. I mean if you're not keeping your man busy working, you just move around. And I'd ask them to come and look at some of my spots that I have and they said that you're just going to bring me to good spots. You're not going to show me the bad spots. So I don't know what else to try as an oyster task member to help our community and help our fisherman. I mean you have fisherman that look at you because you're on this Oyster Taskforce and you're doing nothing for them. So I just think seven sacks is not bad to ask. I don't see that out of 35 fisherman that you can wipe anything out. And we would like to see it stay open. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Theriot. Mr. Adley Dyson. Good morning. State your name and address please.

Adley Dyson: My name's Adley Dyson, 170 Adam Rue Street, Cameron, Louisiana. I'm a member of the State Oyster Taskforce and the operator of Bay Fresh Oysters. And we don't see no problem with the oysters. The industry changes and the biological data should change with it because things change. We've had hurricanes. We've had floods. We've had all kind of things that devastated our community. And we can't use old stuff to govern new things. I mean the industry changes all the time. And if this doesn't open, our town has been through so much with the decline in the oil fields I think it will do our fishery in. That's just too much all at once. And we hired, I think you have one of these papers. We hired our own biologists and everything, our company Bay Fresh Oysters. And I think we have a little report for you all, too. And we appreciate you all. We ask that you open it up, east side and west side for seven sacks. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Dyson. Next to speak is Mr. Mark Valentino.

Mark Valentino: My name is Mark Valentino and I have Bay Fresh Oyster Company. And I have copies of our biologist's report. Can I hand them to you all?

Chairman Yakupzack: Will you state your address, please?

Mark Valentino: Yeah, 312 Arbor Circle, Leek City, Texas. But I've been buying oysters in Cameron since 1986. And I have a wholesale dealer's license for Louisiana.

Chairman Yakupzack: All right, go on and pass out your information.

Mark Valentino: First I'd like to state that everybody that testified before me I agree with

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everything they say. Someone gave me a good piece of advice at the taskforce meetings saying that we needed to do our own sampling. Actually got to meet somebody that does the sampling exactly like the state does. Last year I'd gone to the Oyster Advisory Committee meeting that they had the previous year in Cameron. And they were showing, basically everything that they showed you all. They have five testing sites along the ship channel that were basically showing all zero, no oysters at all in any of their samples. They added one site about 2 or 3 miles away from the channel. And they showed us on this 10-acre reef that there were a lot of oysters. And I asked the biologist, I said, well could it be assumed that the other reefs that are distance from the channel would have the same amount of oysters? And his response was probably, but we don't test those sites. Okay. Then this year they tested another site, they added another site although it was a cultch plant and they found plenty of oysters. But they said we really can't consider that because that's a cultch plant. So we decided to hire our own biologist that basically does the samples respected by the state, respected by the Wildlife and Fisheries certified to do these samples exactly the same way that they do the samples. So they went to one reef, it's in the documents. I didn't even get to look over the document. He just showed up. His stock assessments were getting, that's when I got this report, because they didn't get to do the assessment until Tuesday. So here it is Thursday. It was very quick, extremely quick. If you'll see on one of the pages, he has his conclusion of the one reef that they sampled extensively has pictures. And basically on a 20-acre reef that's shell bottom shows there's approximately 51,000 sacks of oysters on one reef. In the back there's pictures of the oysters, the breakup of the oysters and everything. To do a full assessment of the bay would cost a lot of money. A lot of money that, personally, I can't afford to do myself. But we feel like there's a lot of oysters in east lake. I understand that the state has a big job. Wildlife and Fisheries and their department for sampling has

a big job and they like to rely on the historical data, their historical data that goes back 30 years or more is mostly along the ship channel where there's a big large reef. But since 2009 when they closed down the east side, we've had an oil spill. We've had hurricanes. We've had a lot of things; the deepening of the ship channel. Things have changed. And maybe those samples along the ship channel are still dead. But the other reefs where everybody was working in 2006 and beyond, all of those reefs are very healthy and very alive. And so our recommendation I believe that, with the Commission, is that that they leave it open and let us work on seven sacks. Seven sacks isn't much but that one reef has twice the oysters that they harvested last year and that's only on a 20-acre reef. So that's basically it. And I agree, if you took the seven sacks away from this town, they've had two bad shrimp seasons back to back. And for this town to absolutely have no oysters at all would be a vast injustice to do that. I mean you're just going to kill the town. The town's struggling as it is. So I appreciate your consideration and I hope you can look over the data.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions?
Commissioner Courville?

Commissioner Courville: I don't mean to put you on the spot.

Mark Valentino: Yeah, because I didn't get to look a lot over it.

Commissioner Courville: Just a quick view.

Mark Valentino: Yes sir.

Commissioner Courville: In the conclusion section, I guess the guy that put this together, says that side scan sonar data was not processed for that report. Then he kind of had the caveat that says he doesn't anticipate drastically different acreage calculations. Obviously, Mr. Beck hadn't had a chance to look at this or –

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Mark Valentino: Right. No, he actually didn't get the chance to look at this. I gave him a copy of it.

Commissioner Courville: We're kind of dealing in a vacuum here.

Mark Valentino: Yes sir.

Commissioner Courville: I don't know how to even phrase my question. But I guess would side scan sonar potentially produce different results than what's being yielded here or not?

Mark Valentino: Actually he, Gabriel, said that it wouldn't change it very much, maybe one percent, plus or minus. It wouldn't be much different. They did the sonar but the program that basically runs and does everything, takes sometimes a day to do. And he wasn't running the data until last night. And so it was a time restraint to be able to get the sonar. But we're going to provide the sonar that was done. We're going to provide it to the Wildlife and Fisheries.

Commissioner Courville: So at some point this report will be shared with staff with the Department?

Mark Valentino: Yes sir, exactly.

Commissioner Courville: Okay, thanks.

Mark Valentino: Any other questions?

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, sir. There is one other comment that I assume doesn't deal with Cameron. Mr. Beck, would you like to address anything with regard to Cameron at this time before we get into the other areas, just one other comment for another area?

Steve Beck: Okay, well I'll be glad to. I was taking notes, to lump it up. Basically we're not saying that this is a purely a harvest effect. The population has been subject to changes in

hydrology though. The area's historical productive reefs around the ship channel are no longer productive, and that is a big decline in our numbers. But harvest definitely plays a role in, and that's what we can control. We can't control the hydrology of the system. CPRA is looking into a massive project to isolate the ship channel, which would hopefully improve the situation for oysters. But that project is in its infancy. We're looking forward to looking at all their hydrological modeling. They're going to look very extensively at changing the hydrology of the system. That being said, with regards to our methods, I have a map here that shows our stations within the reef area. It's not showing up too well, maybe if we could dim the lights a little bit. This was our sonar mapping of the entire lake. So basically those, the five channels or the stations they are eluding to near the ship channel, yes. They are not very productive. However, in wet years, like this year we're seeing actually a little bit of production on those stations. That's why we need to include those zeros and those bad stations in our estimates. You can see those yellow stations are our longest term stations, because that used to be where a majority of the resource is so, the green stations were added as a supplement and then this year we added the two stations that are indicated with stars. The far west and the far right. The far western station was added after observing a lot of the fleet in that area. We basically tried to do our best to characterize the reefs. The hot spot is that gray point on the east side, that's the Chenier Reef area. There's a very large amount of resource in that area. So you can see, we know there's lots of pockets of high densities of oysters on the east side, but the total acreage just doesn't add up to much. And it's much, much lower than the historical production that this area has shown in the past. So that's a little bit about our sampling methods. Here's a couple more graphs. The top left graph shows east and west side landings, or, available stock size, I'm sorry, in sacks. The values are sacks times 100,000 so that's six values, 600,000 sacks. So, the black line is the east side. You can see that went down around

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2009, 2010, and that's why we closed that area. You can see in the past couple years we've crept up a very small bit, amount, but we're still so far below that long-term average, which is the black dotted line. Now the gray line, sorry it doesn't show up very well on this map or this figure, but you can see has been on a steady decline since the fleet has been concentrated in that area. And despite the decreased harvest, we've seen last year, in 2014/2015 season, they harvested 46,000 sacks and 2015/2016 they harvested 25,000 sacks. So, the sack limit was successful in decreasing harvest. But as the top right graph shows -- that shows the state-wide stock size is the black line, and that dotted line is the percent of the stock that was harvested. So, you can see way back before 2005 we were harvesting a very low percentage of the stock. That stock seemed to be fluctuating with natural influences but it stayed high. It never crashed. And so, the past 5 or so years, we've seen a huge decline in the stock and that percentage of harvest is still going up so, given the small size of the lake, it's not surprising that you're still able to get your sack limits very quickly. That's basically what I wanted to say according to that, addressing that. With regards to the independent survey, we love more data and so we would love to review that report and see how we could compare it to our numbers. That being said, we are very curious to see it. And basically 50,000 oysters converts to about 277 sacks, so there's 57, 50,000 oysters on 20 acres as Mr. Valentino claims, that converts to about 277 sacks. And yes, we are anxious to view that data. I'm very anxious to see that data. I guess that's it for now.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Smitko?

Commissioner Smitko: Can we go back to that other graphic he had up?

Steve Beck: The map?

Commissioner Smitko: Yes. This says it's based on data between 2008 and 2011. When

was that prepared? When's the data from? When did y'all do the side scan?

Steve Beck: So it's a combination of two time periods. We did some sonar mapping in 2008 and some in 2011. I may have to defer to someone who was back here during that time for a little more details on when that sonar --

Chairman Yakupzack: Assistant Secretary Banks, will you address that?

Patrick Banks: Sure. I sat in Steve's shoes for a number of years for the Department and, Commissioner Smitko, what we did, in 2008 and then again in 2011, we paid for a side scan sonar company to come into the lake and side scan everything in the harvest portion of the lake. So they take sonar and they look at the bottom. They're not just looking at the bottom where you see those colors. They're looking at all of the acreage in the lake. Then based on that sonar, they're able to tell what areas are harbor reef and what areas are scattered shell and what areas are just mud. So the colors you're seeing are the actual reefs, hard reef and scattered shell. So we performed that exercise in order to obtain the total amount of acreage of oyster habitat. And so it does delve into what Steve was saying in that the sample stations near the ship channel are showing zeros. But as you can see, at least on the east side, there was a tremendous amount of acreage of reef, oyster habitat, that's contained within that area. If you move farther to the east, to the white dot, or white with the star in the middle, that's the Chenier Reef. We did find a tremendously high density of oysters. But you can see that the amount of reef acreage is very small over there and so even though you find a lot of oysters in your sample, when you multiply that out by the acreage, you just don't end up with a lot of sacks of oysters and that's what happened. But that side scan sonar data is from 2008 and 2011 showing the acreage of reef and we use that acreage data against our samples from just a couple months ago in terms of the density of oysters.

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Commissioner Smitko: Okay. And could you address for me the questions that were raised about six sampling sites being used?

Steve Beck: I think he was referring to those historical stations close to the, the yellow points there –

Commissioner Smitko: Okay, so how many, in the samples you just completed, the testing y'all just completed, how many sample sites did y'all use?

Steve Beck: 16.

Commissioner Smitko: And those are all delineated on this map?

Steve Beck: Yes. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, oh yes, that includes cultch plant samples, sorry. Those two yellow squares are cultch plants and we saw very good settlement on those during the time of our sampling. Most of those were still seed size, not market size, but they're growing so, yes, everything is.

Commissioner Smitko: But all the yellow, the other yellows, greens and whites were sample?

Steve Beck: Yes. All those, all the green, white, green, yellow and the yellow stars were sampled, and the yellow squares.

Commissioner Smitko: Okay, thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri?

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, we're still on Item No. 12, right?

Chairman Yakupzack: That's correct.

Commissioner Sunseri: Okay.

Chairman Yakupzack: We took some comment that deals obviously with 13, too, but do you have another question?

Commissioner Sunseri: Yeah, but I'm going to wait until after the last person speaks and then I'd like to say something.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay.

Mark Valentino: I'd like –

Chairman Yakupzack: So –

Steve Beck: Sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off. If I could say one thing regarding the community impact. This is the worst case scenario as far as we're concerned. Shutting down a fishery is what we don't want to do and the smaller management actions we could take prior to shutting down a fishery is obviously the preferred option. So just let it be known that we're not insensitive of the community impact that this could present. I just wanted to express that.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. The final comment I have on a request to speak is Mr. Jurisic. Can you state your name and address please?

Jakov Jurisic: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. My name is Jakov Jurisic. I'm an oyster fisherman from Plaquemines Parish and I've been also doing that for the last 4 decades. I'm also member of the Louisiana Oyster Taskforce, along with Chairman, Mr. Tesvich and Commissioner Sunseri. We did discuss issues with regards to opening of Area 1 North and it was my original motion to delay opening that particular area. I will point out three different reasons as to why. As you heard earlier from Mr. Beck, there is some mortality that took place in Area 1 North. Now I hear from my colleagues and I also talked to my colleague that's also on the Taskforce, Mr. Brad Robbins. I talked to him this morning

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and he urged me to speak to you gentleman also about reports that he receives, also from his constituency and the fisherman. Let me first go down my list and then I'll get back with Mr. Robbins. If I forget please remind me, all right. As I stated earlier, there is high mortality that took place in Area 1 North. Also, if you open September 7, we will all agree Commissioner Sunseri and Chairman Tesvich and Mr. Beck the water is still hot. Also there will be tremendous pressure that will be inflicted on that resource. So when you combine hot water, tremendous pressure. That is a recipe, I won't use term disaster loosely, but I will say it's a recipe for an even higher oyster mortality. Now I don't have any percentages as to how high or how low it's oyster mortality. Steve, if you can help me out on that on your report, what is the mortality rate?

Steve Beck: That's what we are sampling today. Our crews are out on the water today conducting the first September dredge sampling event throughout the Biloxi Marsh, Mississippi Sound area and that's the kind of data we'll get. We'll be able to get a percentage mortality. Like I said, we've gotten some reports from oystermen about mortality and a couple spot checks last week trying to monitor flood impacts. It shows some older mortality that's likely from the summer heat and the low oxygen levels. So we are basically there. This afternoon, I'm waiting, when I get a text message any second now showing what the data shows. Our field crews are on the case and we also found some. Brad Robbins called me up and said that they're seeing the signs of an early spat set. So excessive mortality and spat fall are two reasons we would definitely consider delaying the season. We are aware of the reports and we're trying to confirm those reports.

Jakov Jurisic: Okay. One more question, Mr. Beck, from me. Can you give me fatality, a percentage, from your initial sampling that took place? I would say July, sometime?

Steve Beck: I don't have those specific numbers here. I can provide those numbers of the mortality we saw during our dredge sampling, that's what I think you're referring to, and that was early July. We got a couple of comments about or calls about mortality in late July. Our early August sweep of the area didn't show much mortality but then our spot check did. We're waiting to see what today's data shows.

Jakov Jurisic: Okay. Let me ask you one more question, if I may. Would it be fair to say, because I remember you saying when opening of Bonnet Carre Spillway took place, if I'm wrong, please do correct me, that there was initially a mortality rate of somewhere around 15 percent.

Steve Beck: Fifteen?

Jakov Jurisic: Yes.

Steve Beck: I'll have to look at that data again. But the Bonnet Carre opening in February did not result in very much mortality because the water temperatures were so cold –

Jakov Jurisic: Cold, that's –

Steve Beck: – that they could tolerate those low salinities for longer. So we did not see very much mortality.

Jakov Jurisic: Okay.

Chairman Yakupzack: Mr. Jurisic, I just want to let you know you got a minute left. I'd like you to --.

Jakov Jurisic: Okay. I'll try to wrap it up as soon as I can, Mr. Chairman. Please do bear with me. Okay. Let's just create a hypothetical here, although I don't like hypotheticals, but let's just say the truth is somewhere in between my findings and Mr. Beck's findings. Every time the fisherman catches the dredge material from the reef, dumps that on his worktable and let's

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say that mortality rate is somewhere around 20 to 30 percent. He will be committing violation because he will be having too much of a dredge fill in his catch. Speaking of this, dredge fill in a way incorporates the most recent flood event because in aftermath of Bonnet Carre Spillway, Pearl River being aside, for the entirety of the rain season. And then most recent, floods that took place just weeks ago. That is setting stage for a spat set. Now on top of that, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, we also have some small disturbances that brought in salt water which creates, I would say, at least in my humble opinion, a perfectly mixture for oysters to spawn. So my question is why do we want to go and risk taking cultch material off the reef in the wake of spat set. So my conclusion, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, is that we at least give opportunity to the Department and the industry to conduct joint sampling of the reefs and also given alternative to Secretary Melancon to make his decision, whatever that may be, based on Steve's industry sampling and then we can open it at a later date, if need be. That's all I have to say at this point. If y'all have any questions, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, I'll be glad to answer. Thank you very much.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Jurisic and everyone for all your comments. When we go to the next section, we may have some recommendations that I'd like to make but just a couple of comments in regards to one of our primary public oyster grounds, south of the MRGO. And that particular area has been affected by a couple of situations that we have down there with the Mardi Gras pass that continues to expand which is actually hurting a lot of the fisheries, not just the oysters. But the Fort Saint Philip crevasse, last year the crevasse produced at times as much as 100,000 cfs of fresh water into that system. We're talking about the most prolific oyster ground not only in the state but in the world. And it's been decimated and if we've seen this now for a number of years and this is

where so much of our productivity came from historically, going back to the beginning. So, in the future, we need to discuss that issue and what we'll do as a commission to deal with that. Because for us as a group, having the responsibility, try to do what's best for the productivity, the protection, all of that, of the resources in the state and to see this condition going on, we need to deal with it and we need to tackle it because there's no reason that we should have to be dealing with an area that has such a historic importance to our state and to the fishery if we can't count on it anymore. And with that, thank you, Mr. Chairman and when we get to the next agenda item, I'd like to make some recommendations.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Commissioner Sunseri. I want to take the opportunity before we move. We have one other comment card supporting the Department recommendations as recommended, in favor of the proposal, does not wish to speak, David Cresson, CCA. I want to take this opportunity to apologize that many of these comments cards had Agenda Item 12 and 13 and some of them that we just went through, some of the speakers you heard, only had 13. So I apologize that that got a bit out of order but the recommendation's been made and I think we'll hear from Mr. Beck again now moving to Agenda Item 13. I'd like the Commission and Department to recognize those comments that we've heard on this subject as covering both of these agenda items, if you will. So with that, Agenda Item No. 13 is to Consider the Declaration of Emergency for Setting the 2016/17 Oyster Season on the Public Oyster Areas of Louisiana⁸. Mr. Beck, would you please carry forward with that?

Steve Beck: Yes, the declaration that you received reflects what is shown here at the table. It's the season recommendation that I proposed. We received comment from

⁸ See Exhibit 8 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Commissioner Courville about a slight amendment to the second to last paragraph requesting that the chair or the commission and secretary meet to discuss any changes, any season adjustments or sack limit, any changes to the season once this initial declaration is passed. As of now, that is the only edit that needs incorporated.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission and members of the Department and people in the audience. This is a very important issue to all of us here. Doesn't matter if you're on the resource end or if you're on the farming and fishing end of the business. I appreciate this opportunity and I'm going to make a couple of recommendations in a form of motions, Mr. Chairman. That Area 1 North be allowed to not take the September 7th opening and give the Secretary the authority based on the biological data received to allow it to open late if they find that there is a recent spat set that could cause mortality. If they find that everything looks the same as it did back when they did their sample to leave it the same. That's the first thing.

Commissioner Smitko: If you would, make that into the form of a motion.

Commissioner Sunseri: You want me to do one at a time?

Commissioner Smitko: Yes.

Commissioner Sunseri: Okay. I'll do that.

Chairman Yakupzack: Please do. We have a motion to amend the DOE to reflect that should the Department find the need for delay, that the September 7th date that the Secretary, after consultation with the Chairman, will delay the opening of Area 1 North. Did I recount that correctly?

Commissioner Sunseri: That, that's fine.

Chairman Yakupzack: And a second from Commissioner Smitko.

Commissioner Sunseri: The one question I'm going to ask, the Secretary's always had that authority. I don't have a problem with the Chairman's input. I just wanted to ask is that something new that we're going to try to do down the line with everything.

Chairman Yakupzack: No. I'll respond to that because I checked that. That is something that is historically been in the oyster setting seasons, DOEs. And the only thing that I understand Commissioner Courville has asked to change is that the notification has historically says shall notify the Chairman and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission of his intention to make any and all changes indicated. And so all I think the aspect he's adding is to make it a prior aspect. Prior to doing it, he'll notify the Chairman and the intent is so that the Chairman can consider whether or not a special commission meeting should be had to allow for public input.

Commissioner Sunseri: All right. I understand. Thank you very much for that clarification.

Chairman Yakupzack: Yes, sir. Okay. So can that motion -- we've heard the motion and we have a second on that area. Do you wish to address other areas?

Commissioner Sunseri: You don't want to vote on the one right now?

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, fair enough. We'll do that. So, the motion has been made to accept the DOE as stated to open on September 7th unless the Department finds that a delay is needed and the Secretary would then, in accordance with the DOE, delay the opening. We have a second by Commissioner

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Smitko. Any public comment? All those in – oh, commissioner, I'm sorry. Biologist Beck.

Steve Beck: It was my understanding that kind of language is already in the DE that you have, so if I pass it right now, the season's set to open September 7th but it currently gives the Secretary power to delay the season. But given the short timeframe and 72-hour notice, that's why we're hanging on the edge. I'm on the edge of my seat waiting to see the data from today's sampling, so we have to submit that today or early tomorrow morning. So it'd just be a separate DE to delay the season. But it's my understanding that this DE already gives the Secretary that power. Am I correct?

Chairman Yakupzack: Assistant Secretary Banks?

Patrick Banks: Yes, that is correct, Steve. These DEs historically have always given the secretary that authority to make these kind of changes and delay if we get some new data in that indicates the delay is warranted and Steve is correct. Normally, we would have a lot of time to get that data in and make those kind of adjustments. In this case, that adjustment is going to have to be made by tomorrow morning to meet the letter of the law to change or to issue the delay. So it may very well be that y'all see or get, Mr. Chairman, you may get a call from us late this afternoon or first thing in the morning about a potential delay but the motion is really you could make a motion and pass it but it's really not needed. It already gives the secretary that exact authority in the DE.

Commissioner Sunseri: I withdraw the motion.

Commissioner Smitko: I withdraw the second.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay. Thank you, commissioners.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you. The next thing, dealing with Calcasieu Lake and saving

the lake. I'd like to make a motion to request that this NOI delay the closure of Calcasieu Lake east and west until the biologists from Wildlife and Fisheries can go do a sampling with a couple members of the Calcasieu Oyster Taskforce. A couple members and their biologists so that they can go with those people that work within that Area 7 area, the biologists from the oyster department, to go look at the different spots that they're talking about and show that if there is oysters there. If there isn't and then give the secretary the authority to open that area rather than keeping it closed based on their findings and we could vote on it at the next meeting, because we'll still have time before the November, actually before the 15th of October is when we need to make a determination. That's a lot of words. I don't know if the secretary can get that.

Chairman Yakupzack: If I may, I attempted to understand and clarify is, so this DOE states that the season's closed. And the season wouldn't open until, what you're suggesting, is the season wouldn't open anyway until a date after our October commission meeting. And what you're asking for is that this motion be passed as is, and in October consider the item of opening Calcasieu Lake again?

Commissioner Sunseri: Yes, with that caveat of the Calcasieu Oyster Taskforce, two members and the biologist that worked that area from the department getting back with the Undersecretary of Fisheries and the Secretary, and then talking to you, Mr. Chairman, about their findings, together.

Chairman Yakupzack: If I may respond, Assistant Secretary Banks, number one, is that something that -- I understand it's a bit unconventional -- is that something that your Department, the Fisheries team could work with?

Patrick Banks: We certainly can, and I actually commend the local industry for taking the initiative to go out and do this sampling. Like

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Steve said, we always want more data. We would love to sample every single oyster on every single reef, every square meter out there. We just simply can't do it. So the more data is better, and we'd like to have a chance to review that data before a decision is made. What I would recommend, and I think it gets to the intent of Mr. Sunseri, is that we just simply remove the decision on Calcasieu Lake from this DE at this time, and we place an agenda item at the next meeting to set the season for Calcasieu Lake. The law of Title 56 does not require that Calcasieu Lake, or it says that the earliest Calcasieu Lake could be open is October the 15th, so technically we wouldn't need to make a decision, by law, until the October meeting. So I think the easiest thing to do is just simply remove Calcasieu Lake from this consideration, give us another month to do some sampling with that industry, review the industry's data, take our own data, come back to you guys and report on that so that you all can set a specific season for Calcasieu Lake at the October meeting.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mighty fine with me, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Martin, do we require a motion or can we just adopt the declaration of emergency sans the Calcasieu Lake portion, remove it?

Yolanda Martin: I think you go through your motion protocol to remove it from the DE and proceed forward.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: I'll second.

Chairman Yakupzack: If I understand, the motion is to now adopt this DE as stated with the exception of removing Area 7, Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake, until further considered

by this commission at the October commission meeting.

Commissioner Sunseri: Yes sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: And I have a second from Commissioner Courville. Any public comment? All those in favor?

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion of the DOE as stated passes. I'd like to take a moment to comment and thank everybody who's come for various issues and ask you to always participate. It's the best forum to communicate with the commission, and I'll ask you to exit the room quietly if you choose to leave at this time. Agenda Item No. 14, Receive the Waterfowl Population, Hunting Regulations and Preseason Update⁹ from Biologist and Waterfowl Study Leader, Larry Reynolds.

Larry Reynolds: Well, I've been known to clear a room, but I don't think this was my fault. Thank you, sir. Well, this will be quite a transition and a fairly unconventional situation from how we normally deal with waterfowl here in front of the commission. First, thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the commission for the opportunity to speak. For you new commission members, my name is Larry Reynolds, and I am the waterfowl program manager. This is a big time for migratory bird hunters. The dove season opens this weekend, our September Teal season opens next weekend, waterfowl hunters' first shot at opening the season, and I'm here to talk a little bit about that teal season and the regular duck season coming up over 2 months later, but the strange position that I kind of find myself in right now is that I'm here primarily to talk about the 2017 duck hunting season. And the reason for that is

⁹ See Exhibit 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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because the process for setting waterfowl hunting regulations has changed. And most of you know that because you assisted in this transition period about this time last year. For over 50 years we set migratory bird hunting regulations using two decision periods. First of all we do the population and habitat survey, May and June. We did that in 2015. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Regulations Committee meets in late June, and then we come to you at the July commission meeting and we set the dove season and the teal season. And then July's a really busy month, at least it was for 50 years, because then the reports on the population status, the pond numbers, all the adaptive harvest management modeling we've been doing for the last 25 years, all those reports come out in late July. The flyway meetings occurred. After the flyway meetings, which is where the states send their recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations committee meets, and then they propose the framework regulations and then I come back to you, the commission, and we set the specific duck and goose hunting seasons in the State of Louisiana. Now, just looking at that, that is a very compacted time period. In fact, it's barely 3 months from the time we start collecting the data until we have the final season decisions. That's less than the public comment period for setting deer seasons or turkey seasons or other hunting seasons. So this process has been seriously compressed, and that's one of the reasons that it's been changed, and last year we fought our way through that change because we're using the same data. The process has been changed to set this year's hunting season with last year's monitoring data, and that survey happened in May and June of 2005. And as soon as we set the 2015 hunting seasons in August of last year, we went back to work reanalyzing that same monitoring data using a different method, using different statistical and scientific methods that account for the fact that we have added uncertainty from using prior years' data. And then the flyways met again, so we met in July for the normal process, then we got together via teleconference,

we gave our recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service, their regulations committee met again in November, they set the framework in December, and then we came to the Commission in January and started the process to, excuse me, set the duck and goose hunting regulations concurrent with all of the rest of the hunting regulations. That's how the process now works, and that's why I'm up here in September. Usually August was our big water fowl meeting. We would review the monitoring data, we'd talk about the AHM modeling and we'd set the seasons all in August. Specifically, I have just returned from the flyway meeting. The monitoring survey happened in May and June this year of 2016, and from that, from those monitoring surveys we have estimates of the breeding population, estimates of the number of ponds, which are supposed to be combined with the harvest data and the AHM modeling so that we have the information necessary to make recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the 2017 duck seasons. Well, there's been some glitches this year, some of them our fault, and when I say our, I mean the flyway, some of them manpower restrictions and problems with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So when I went to the Mississippi flyway meetings August 22nd through the 26th we didn't have the AHM modeling. In fact, the service told us last year they wouldn't have it until September 1st, but our administrators within the flyway thought well, they've got 3 to 4 extra weeks, there's no reason they can't get it done by August 22nd. But they didn't. The harvest data, this is an election year and the administration is not being allowed to fill vacancies, and so the harvest survey section is down almost 50 percent in manpower and we still don't have the harvest data from last year. What that means is that at the Mississippi flyway meetings last week we crafted regulations that are rather generalized because we don't have the AHM modeling that typically informs our decisions on season length and bag limit. Now, other flyways aren't going to have this issue. The other three flyways are meeting between September and October. The

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Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations Committee meeting is set for October 25th and 26th. They are going to propose, they're going to recommend the framework regulations, and then we'll be back to the process that we used last year. We'll be back here in front of the Commission in January proposing specific hunting dates, and those selections will go through the 90-day public comment period through the notice of intent and then we'll make selections through the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2017. So that's hopefully the most boring part of this presentation, but it's also the most important because we're struggling through a really big change in process. And so let's review the monitoring information that we have right now, and we'll do that for two reasons. The first reason is that this is the information that's going to inform the recommendations and decision making for the 2017 hunting season, but it also describes the current status of the population in the habitat going into the 2016 hunting season that we're about to go into. Now, unfortunately the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service typically generates a really slick production video, and I show that video at the August meeting. That's no longer the case. So you're going to get a presentation of me summarizing that information, and hopefully it'll be useful. One of the most important things, this is the current habitat conditions on the breeding grounds at the time of the survey and the months after, and these habitat conditions for the second year in a row are dryer than the year before, especially in the areas of Southern Alberta Manitoba and Saskatchewan where we receive a large number of our birds. Here's the comparison between 2016 and the year before. You can see there are some areas of improvement and some areas, especially those in southern Saskatchewan that have dried substantially. Now, what that means is that the pond count was down 21 percent from 2015, and it's the second consecutive year that the pond count has declined. The current counts are still about long-term average. So we've seen a decline the last couple of years in the amount of habitat for breeding waterfowl, but the population of ducks remains very high. The

48.4 million ducks counted on the survey is similar to 2015, 38 percent above the long-term average. Now, that looks terrific, and it is terrific for maintaining long seasons and large bag limits as we make hunting season regulations, but when you have a large population of ducks on a declining number of ponds, the situation is perfect for much lower reproductive success and a false life that includes a smaller proportion of juveniles. And I'm only going to speak for myself, but I need young, dumb animals to be successful when I'm out tramping around in the mud and marsh. All right, how about some specific species? The mallard population, same as the year before, 51 percent above long-term average. Now, Louisiana only winters about a third of the mallards that it did 25 years ago, but this is still a critical piece of information because it's the mallard population numbers that are a critical factor in the AHM modeling that determines the length of our season and our bag limits. A little more applicable to us are gadwalls, typically the most abundant species in our harvest, gadwall numbers similar to the year before, well above long-term average. Pattern similar with green wing teal. Got nice populations of green wing teal. Now, blue wing teal declined by 22 percent from 2015, but they're still 34 percent above the long-term average and our teal season's about to open, and what's critical about this particular graph and these numbers is that contrary to the mallards, pintails, scaup, canvasbacks, the harvest strategy for blue wing teal is just a simple threshold strategy. If we have more than 3.3 million blue wings, we're going to have an open teal season. If we have more than 4.7 million blue wings, we're going to have a 16-day season. So because this strategy is so simple and because we have an estimate of 6.7 million birds, we know that in 2017 we're going to have a 16-day teal season with a six bird limit, no uncertainty there. Shovelers, this is heartbreaking for people like me, but the shoveler population has declined a lot like the blue wing teal population. Pardon me for needing a moment after that. Pintail, the pintail population is statistically similar to last year, but

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the pintail population has declined over the last 3 years. Canvasbacks, still well above long-term average similar to last year. Scaup, also similar to last year, didn't have near long-term average. Now, ringneck ducks are not part of the traditional ten species that are surveyed. They're surveyed in a survey in Eastern Canada, but they've become pretty important to our hunters in southeast Louisiana and always have been at Calcasieu Lake. And you can see that ringnecks are continuing their long-term population increase. Not so with model ducks. Look at the red line in the middle. This is 8 years of our model duck breeding population survey that's conducted in April, and you can see that in the last 9 years our model duck breeding population has declined by about 50 percent. And what's interesting, just another footnote on the impetus of waterfowl hunting regulations to drive waterfowl populations. This is the time period after he reduced the bag limit from 3 to 1. You've got some serious work with model ducks to consider in the future. So in summary, what does all of this mean? Total ducks are down slightly but well above long-term average. For Adaptive Harvest Management modeling purposes, we've got 12.5 million mallards. Ponds are down 20 percent, still at long-term average. There are 3.5 million Canadian ponds which are used for the Adaptive Harvest Management modeling. Pintails, canvasbacks and scaup are about the same as last year. Our goose monitoring is very different from our duck monitoring. Our goose monitoring depends on mid-winter surveys, fall staging surveys and banding data. Those surveys show that goose populations are stable or increasing for both white and white-fronted geese, and their reproductive effort is highly correlated with the time of ice out on the arctic breeding grounds. This year ice out was average to slightly earlier. Now, at the following meeting we got some conflicting reports because we expected reproduction to be pretty good for snow and light-fronted geese, but at a couple specific colonies that flyway members worked, there was almost a total bust in reproduction

because the hatch was about 4 days earlier than green up. That's how critical timing is for these arctic breeding species. The goslings hatched and the goslings starved. So we've got some sorta conflicting information regarding goose reproduction. And what does that mean? What does that mean for 2017? We've already talked about the teal season. That one's in the bag. We know it. Now despite not having the mallard AHM modeling data, we are fairly certain we're going to have a 60-day season with a six-duck limit. Why? Because that's the AHM modeling for 2016 last year and you can see the gray box at the bottom where last year we had 4 million Canadian ponds and we had greater than 8.25 million mallards, gave us a liberal season well within the liberal zone. This year we're down to 3.5 million ponds but we still have far greater than 8.25 million mallards so we're still going to be liberal. We're very confident of that. We expect no changes in pintail, canvasbacks, scaup, wood duck, model duck and goose seasons and bag limits. That's what we expect. Why? Because populations were similar to last year. Pond numbers are down slightly. We'll have to see what that modeling says but we're fairly certain that there won't be any changes. But as always, you know, stay tuned. Nothing's final 'til it's final. Now what about this season? All right. We talked about next season. Field season opens on September 10th. The zone boundaries have changed for the regular duck season. And those zone boundaries, these were the zone boundaries that we've used – east zone, west zone, coastal zone – for the last 4 years. But those zone boundaries changed last November. And this is what they look like now. And just focus your attention in northwest Louisiana up at Highway 20, the junction of Highway 20 and the black line and you can see how that's changed. There are portions of Bossier, Webster, Bienville and Claiborne Parish that have moved from the east zone to the west zone and will have separate season dates. And now if you focus your attention over there on what I like to call the east zone nipple, you can see how that has changed. There are large portions of

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Evangeline, Jeff Davis, Acadia and other parishes that have moved from the coastal zone to the east zone. These maps are available on our web site and all hunters need to check these zone boundaries for changes between last year and this year before heading afield. The last point I want to make and I put it in yellow because it can't be emphasized enough. These monitoring data are magnificent. They are the largest, longest running wildlife population survey on planet earth. The most, one of the most sound statistically designed, large scale surveys. This is fantastic data. I mean, we actually have more data and information about mallards than some countries have on their own people. But it's collected at a continental scale. So it may mean bupkis to your hunting success within 300 yards of where you park your boohan in Terrebonne Parish or Cameron Parish. And so that always has to be taken into consideration. That weather and habitat conditions both up and down the flyway and locally are going to have a larger impact on your hunting success than these data that I've shown. And let's just think about the teal season opening weekend after next. We know that there is more water in the flyway north of us right now than there was a year ago. A year ago, we were coming into a 100-year drought up and down the flyway. And so as you go into teal season, already we know that the water conditions north of us are different than they were last year. Now 2 ½ months from now when we open the regular duck season, we expect there to be a lot less water north of, in the flyway of Louisiana. And we expect lower temperatures. Why? Because of the monsoon rains that the flyway got in October and early November last year. Those weather and habitat conditions are going to be far more meaningful than a 21 percent decline in ponds and the same breeding population. And the last thing, when you are successful, not if you're successful but when you're successful this year, there are lots of picking sheds around the state that are more than willing to help you clean your birds and prepare them for consumption. And Matt Halgen of the waterfowl section has taken the

existing rules for these processing facilities and has combined them into an informational brochure about migratory bird preservation facilities. It provides guidelines for how these picking sheds can provide completely clean ducks without fully feathered heads or fully feathered wings. It gives an example database for what these facilities need to do to stay legal, along with you can see tags are just copiously scattered throughout this brochure. The tagging requirements are fairly strict but really easy to follow in this state. And this brochure and other cool stuff is going to be available at the web site that you see there. We are currently producing a new page on our web site for waterfowl hunter resources. It's currently, it is not launched. It will include this brochure. It will include summaries of waterfowl monitoring data like our aerial surveys here in Louisiana and links to other monitoring data and frequently asked questions. I appreciate the time, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Reynolds. As always, we appreciate your thorough presentations. Any questions or discussions from the commission? Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank Mr. Reynolds. One for your level of professionalism and your tireless efforts. I know you had a pretty hectic schedule in recent times and this was spectacular. And I'd like to thank your staff, the waterfowl staff for putting that migratory bird presentation stuff together, along with this and giving everybody something to chew on in advance of chasing a few blue wing teal throughout the state. Thanks again. Job well done.

Larry Reynolds: I appreciate that.

Chairman Yakupzack: We'll move forward now with Agenda Item 15: To Receive a Summary Report of the Cervid Carcass Ban Notice of Intent Public Hearings and Consideration of Any

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Amendments to the Cervid Carcass Ban Notice of Intent¹⁰. Biologist, Johnathan Bordelon.

Johnathan Bordelon: Mr. Chairman, if you can bear with me one more time.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Reynolds, would you, when you get a minute, if you could email that presentation to the commissioners that would be greatly appreciated.

Larry Reynolds: Absolutely. I appreciate the time to put that together outside the deadline.

Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioners, good morning. Today I'm just here to present comments. These comments have already been provided to you weekly through this 60-day process that we've been through. At this time, we've received 11 comments of support, 14 neutral and 161 negative. Of those 161 negative, the majority actually have been in emails which you've been copied on, but in addition to those, we've also received 63 public-hearing comments that were opposed to the current NOI. In addition to that, we've received 3 by mail and 7 by phone. I will mention the 63 public-hearing comments. It doesn't represent the total number of people. Those were just people who expressed a written, a verbal comment at the meetings. We had 203 that actually attended the 6 meetings held last week and earlier this week. So 203 total attendees for 6 meetings. The primary complaints or concerns involve possession requirements in other states, reciprocal properties located in two states. Basically lands that may be partially in Louisiana and an adjoining state, difficulty in taxidermy requirements, and that's from hunters. Negative impacts to taxidermists, so those are basically concerns from the industry,

talking about the negative impacts that they anticipate through this NOI. Also a request for proper disposal exemptions for taxidermists, and that's been a reoccurring comment through this process. Also negative impacts to meet processors' concerns regarding the effectiveness of this regulation, and one of the others is a request for quarters minus backbone, and then also just general inconvenience. And you've been copied with these through the process. Obviously, these are probably very familiar to you all and that is basically the summary of the comments that we have received. I'd be happy to answer any questions specific to any of the comments.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions or comment from the commission?

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: I don't have any questions, but I do have a comment. I was able to attend the Lafayette public meeting, and I have to say this. That was one of the finest public meetings held by the department I have ever attended. The professionalism of the staff and the enforcement agents that were there took a tense atmosphere and really, you guys knocked it out of the park. So, all I really want to say is outstanding job, and I can only assume that happened at all the other ones. But Mr. Secretary, well, Mr. Myers, your staff represented you outstanding, as well as the enforcement. Outstanding job. I can't say enough positive about how that meeting in particular went.

Chairman Yakupzack: I certainly echo those comments for the Lake Charles meeting, which I had the opportunity to attend. So, thank you again on behalf of the commission.

¹⁰ See Exhibit 10 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Johnathan Bordelon: Well, on behalf of everyone who participated, we thank y'all, thank you for that.

Commissioner Sunseri: And, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I want to say Johnathan, thanks for all the information; Randy, thanks for all the information. It's been very helpful. The public meetings, I think, were great, and I did get to attend one, and y'all guys did a fabulous job.

Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you, Mr. Sunseri.

Chairman Yakupzack: I do have a public comment card with regard to this agenda item. If you all have no opposition to taking the comment, additional comment now. Mr. David, is it Meagher?

David Meagher: Yes.

Chairman Yakupzack: Please come up, state your name and address.

David Meagher: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. My name is David Meagher, David's Taxidermy in Lafayette, Louisiana, 548 East Pont des Mouton. I'm here representing the Louisiana Taxidermists Association, hunters, processors and myself. One thing we talked about, I think I emailed, I think it was forwarded to y'all. I'd just like to maybe read it and recap. I have another proposal which I think may work or at least maybe be discussed. The main thing is I'm begging and pleading to please delay this, as far as the time factor. We're right in the season now. We look forward to this season. We make our year on the next 3 months, so doing this right now would be really not a good thing for the taxidermists. It'd be a great inconvenience and there's so many people who do not know, so I definitely, I beg that we have more time. Another thing, I have it all here, but the main thing I'd like to propose is, we all agree we don't want this disease in our state, but I think there's a different way instead of completely

banning the importation of parts for taxidermy. I propose that there's taxidermists become state-approved facilities who are, who take a course, maybe pay a fee, and this could be renewed once a year to where they're educated and trained on ethics, proper disposal and handling of the parts. It also can apply to the processors who, you know, whether it's deboned or no bone or just quartered parts with no backbone, that can all be worked out, but as far as the taxidermists, I think it would help regulate all of the hunters. Because the guys coming back from out of state with a trophy are bringing it somewhere. They're going to do something with it. I think eliminating the ban, it may pose a threat mishandled parts, so I think that's a big thing to consider and hope we can delay this until we can work together, use approved taxidermy facilities that can also help a smaller taxidermist who doesn't want to get approved, just so that animal hide, comes into the state, maybe give them 72 hours to go to approved facility and treat it correctly, whether it's going to approved landfill or incinerator. He can do that for other taxidermists who haven't been approved. It may generate income to be able to help promote this issue, educating people. I just, like I said, I think it can work. I think hopefully you can delay until this can all be considered. I think that's about it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Meagher. Any additional question or comment on this item?

Commissioner Sunseri: No, I just have a motion that I'd like to make regarding an amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay.

Commissioner Courville: Let's hear it. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, let's hear Al's, and then I have some thoughts as well.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri, would you like to make a motion?

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Commissioner Sunseri: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the commission and people in the audience. This is all new to me, and I've learned quite a bit from this entire process. It was, again, I'll repeat, it was a tremendous job done because I learned through the orientation that I took that once you've got X amount of opposing opinions on NOIs, that it was something that you needed to start considering and looking at the changes, and with that I took this very seriously, read through all the comments that were sent, went to a public meeting, and one of the things that I came across in my readings had to do with an exemption that they had in Missouri. I used that as a template for this amendment that I'm going to put forward to the commission to add to the NOI but having said that, I'll read the amendment and then, based on what happens, if it gets a second, gets a discussion, I'd like to talk a little bit further about it. This is the amendment¹¹. Wildlife legally taken and exported from a state or country outside of Louisiana may be shipped into Louisiana by common carrier, except Cervid Carcass or Cervid Carcass parts, the importation, transportation or possession of a Cervid Carcass or Cervid Carcass parts taken from illegally obtained outside of the State of Louisiana is prohibited, except for meat that is cut and wrapped, meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part or spinal column attached, hides or capes from which all excess tissue has been removed, antlers, antlers attached to skull plates, skull plates cleaned of all muscle and brain tissue, upper canine teeth and finished taxidermy products. Carcasses or parts of carcasses listed above may be transported into the state only if they are reported to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Cervid hotline prior to entering the State of Louisiana and then taken to a licensed meat processor or a licensed taxidermist within 24 hours, and 24 hours of entry. All Cervid Carcass and Cervid

Carcass parts shall be enclosed in a heavy-duty construction bag or similar heavy-duty disposable plastic container upon entry to the State of Louisiana. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Cervid hotline shall give the importer an identification number for Cervid Carcass or Cervid Carcass parts imported into the State of Louisiana with the destination to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist. Licensed meat processors and taxidermists shall contact the Department Wildlife and Fisheries' Cervid hotline with the identification number given to the importer and shall dispose of the discarded tissue, bones and parts enclosed in heavy-duty construction bags or similarly heavy-duty disposal plastic containers in properly permitted landfill. With that, there would have to be laws written and passed by the legislature for this all to be able to take place, which would include a Cervid hotline legislation that would be funded by the licenses listed above. Cervid Carcass, a Cervid Carcass parts import license, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries license for taxidermists, and a license for Cervid meat processors. So it would all be contingent on those things being done, which basically would put all this on hold until the legislature meets, but that's my amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Commissioner Sunseri. Commissioner Courville, do you wish to discuss your amendment at this time?

Commissioner Courville: I guess what I would ask, at the pleasure of Commissioner Sunseri, would he consider a substitute motion, or would you like your motion to be considered at this time, or do you want to hear the items that I have to present, and then reconsider if you had a chance to read them, so I guess I would defer to your preference.

Commissioner Sunseri: Either way is okay with me. If you do a substitute, that would be fine, but I would just as soon listen to yours and maybe withdraw mine.

¹¹ See Exhibit 11 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Commissioner Courville: I think we're similar. Okay. Mr. Chairman, would you like me to read?

Chairman Yakupzack: Yes. We have a motion by Commissioner Sunseri on the table without a second. Commissioner Courville would like to propose an alternative or substitute motion.

Commissioner Courville: With that, I hope that the commissioners have had a chance to read this and for the benefit of the attendees here, I'll go ahead and read the whole thing. What you're going to hear is, and I'll make note of, I used the original notice of intent and added a couple of items, and I'll distinguish those as I read this¹². So in the original intent starts, Item B. No person shall import, transport or possess any Cervid Carcass or part of a Cervid Carcass originating outside of Louisiana except, and here's my insertion, for a meat that is cut and wrapped, meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached. Then I strike through deboned meat to the original NOI, then back to the original wording, comma antlers, clean skull plates with antlers, clean skulls without tissue attached, capes, hand hides, finished taxidermy mounts and clean, cervid teeth. Approved parts or, I strike out deboned and go back to original meat. Addition of mine, parentheses, as noted above, and that's a reference to the meat exemption that's noted above. Back to the original, transported from other states must be legally possessed from the state it is taken. Approved parts and, I strike out deboned meat, back to meat, back to my insertions as noted above, from other states must contain a possession tag with the hunter's name, out-of-state license number, if required, address, species, date and location, parentheses, county and state of harvest. My new insertion, and all bones shall be disposed of in a manner where it's final destination is at a Type 2 landfill or

equivalent. Back to original, all cervids transported into or through this state in violation of this provision, of the provisions of this ban shall be seized and disposed of in accordance with Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' rules and regulations. My insertion, said rules shall be effective March 1, 2017. So that is my take on addressing some of the public comments but maintaining the intent of the original NOI and allows for a bit of an education period, if you will, for this year for folks to digest this, and it'd be effective, as I appreciate this deer season you have some deer hunting that goes into February, so making it effective March 1st, 2017.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mrs. Martin, I would like to ask you what we have here, as I understand, we have got a notice of intent that this commission passed at the July meeting, and so it's been running for 60 days of the 90-day public-comment period. What effect will a amendment, these I've got. Now we got competing motions to amend the NOI. What is the effect on that process in passing this rule? What effect would an amendment have on the process?

Yolanda Martin: Well, first off you have 1 year to finalize the rule. So what amendment would do is you would go back and publish the amended or revised rule in the potpourri section of the register. And then if the public demand or if the agency allows or wants to, they can then entertain public meeting on the revised section of the rule only. And that would delay it probably another 60 days, and then it would get back into the process of the regular rule making.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, thank you. So I guess I'll go further. Commissioner Sunseri, if you would consider that, obviously, but that's your option, or we can consider yours first and then see how that goes or move forward with the second consideration.

Commissioner Smitko: I would second Commissioner Sunseri's motion.

¹² See Exhibit 12 attached hereto and made a part hereof

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Chairman Yakupzack: Okay. Motion by Sunseri to amend the NOI in accordance with his substitutions to the original NOI and second by Commissioner Smitko. Any public comment? Mr. Meagher, you can come back up.

David Meagher: David Meagher, once again. I think that's a great idea, and I think a licensing would not be a bad idea, because it would help the situation and it's something that we've always considered to keep everyone legal and everyone in good standing with the secretary of state would be able to qualify to become licensed or approved facility. So I like that, and hopefully we go that way. So thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: Commissioner Sunseri, in your proposal, originally it was deboned meat. Then I heard a couple people talk about no backbones. In your proposal is it, if I'm bringing deboned meat in, I don't have to call anybody or do anything. Is that how it would remain in your proposal? The only time I would have to call the hotline is if I'm going to the taxidermist or the processor with my deer, correct?

Commissioner Sunseri: Yes, Commissioner Smitko. That would be my thought process on it. That it would remain. You would meet the satisfactory conditions of the NOI if they were to debone the meat and not bring the heads without the exceptions and calling in.

Commissioner Smitko: Right, right.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: I guess the way I read it is as an individual, if I'm not going to a processor or a taxidermist, what am I going to do as an individual under this amendment. Is

this requiring me to call the cervid hotline if I'm bringing in any meat?

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, if I may -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Courville, I would say that it would require an individual to call cervid hotline, but I would be amicable to changing to allow for some of the things that are written in the amendment that you've written to deal with your concerns. The cervid hotline is a protectionary and cautionary thing for the department and this problem, this chronic-waste disease that we have, that we don't want in the state, and I really just came, you're better at this than me. I basically just took something from what I read and kind of the knowledge I have in the business that I'm in, and we had to jump through a lot of hoops to be able to sell our product in interstate commerce, so I looked at the best thing that I saw with the exemptions, and I'm going through this explanation only so that I can help you and the people in the audience understand where it came from, but I'm definitely amicable to changing this to meet the needs that you're discussing.

Commissioner Smitko: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: But it's my understanding that under Commissioner Sunseri's proposal, if I want to debone, if I don't have a trophy, and I just want to debone my deer and pack it in my ice chest and come on home, I can do that. It's only when I want to bring it to a processor to debone and make tamales or if I want to bring my head back to a taxidermist in Louisiana that I have to call anybody. Otherwise, you do what you do. You clean your deer, debone it and bring it back. I don't think that's onerous.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

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Commissioner Courville: As I appreciate it, you can't bring the brain in, correct? Even under the cervid hotline?

Commissioner Sunseri: That's correct.

Commissioner Courville: So you –

Commissioner Smitko: Wait, I –

Commissioner Sunseri: The brain –

Commissioner Courville: You still can't bring the head in under the way his is written, –

Commissioner Sunseri: Or the glands.

Commissioner Courville: Or the glands. You still have to fully cape it out, which is what our current notice of intent already says. I guess the way I see it is I think I've captured the major differences in the two is we're the same on the meat. The only difference is mine is not contingent upon having legislation and that's where I have a little bit of concern is that I think we, in my judgment, and I'm only speaking on behalf of myself and the way I understand this issue, is I'd like to move forward with the notice of intent. In the event we do, as a group or as an individual, or perhaps as the department, move forward in soliciting a legislator to introduce legislation to start licensing these processors and these taxidermists, assuming that's what's required. I would, I'd prefer to not have it contingent upon legislation that might or might not occur. So that's my concern is I'd like to move forward in the event we do establish licensed taxidermists and licensed processors. Then we all have the right to bring this issue right back up and then address, assuming that legislation is successful, address this and add that to an existing NOI. Again, my concern is if we're unsuccessful with legislation, then we do not have any protection, and we lose the intent of the original NOI, and what I appreciate is most people, including the taxidermists and the processors, are in favor

of. The message I got from most of these people is give us a little bit of time, bone-in meat appears to be, it's not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but it's the lesser of all the evils, and I actually support Commissioner Sunseri's effort to look at licensing taxidermists and meat processors as I understand it right now. I'm just concerned about basing an NOI of this magnitude on potentially getting the legislature to see it the way we do, because, frankly, the legislature is as unpredictable as anybody so that's where I'm at. For whatever that's worth.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to possibly consider a motion to table and put the notice of intent on hold until next year and see if we can get a legislature to do it. We were talking about not doing anything until March 17th anyway with Mr. Courville's amendment. We could address all these issues, discuss it further and try to see if we can get a legislator onboard, because one of my biggest concerns is being able to pay for additional program, and that was the licensing thing and also got people have a skin in the game, to be able to, if they want to carry their trophies and meat with bone in across the border, they're going to have a skin in the game then, and that was the whole purpose of this and to help it become more enforceable. And at that, it all comes straight down to enforcement of whatever rule or law that we have, and so with that, I would like to make a motion to table until –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri, do you withdraw your earlier motion?

Commissioner Sunseri: I would withdraw my earlier motion with a motion to table until the spring of 2017.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Smitko, do you withdraw your second?

Commissioner Smitko: I withdraw my second.

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Chairman Yakupzack: So, we have a motion to table this item. Is there a second?

Commissioner Hogan: Let's talk about what the current timeline is for more time, without an amendment.

Chairman Yakupzack: Without, it's my appreciation, I asked Ms. Martin to listen to my appreciation of it as chairman and to confirm or correct me if I'm incorrect, but this NOI was passed by this commission in its current form at the July commission meeting, which started a 90-day clock. The 90-day clock is 60 days in, and at the October meeting, 90 days will have passed, and there will be a vote by this commission, up or down on the existing words in that notice of intent. The one that you all, the public and the department drafted and the public has been commenting on. So that is my understanding of the timeline. If no motion is had today, if no table is had, this notice of intent in its current form continues on for more public comment until the October meeting, at which time there will be a yes or a no vote by this commission. Is that correct, Ms. Martin?

Yolanda Martin: Well, what happens is, yes. That is correct. However, before it's published, you do need to submit your summary report, which has to be filed 30 days prior to the final rule. So there is another step in there, and it could possibly delay another 30 days if you keep pushing it down the road. If you do nothing, you still have to file your summary report, and, and I guess you'll be doing that next month, if you're delaying it some.

Next Speaker: We'll file the summary report and at the same time we'll have up-or-down vote on the motion, correct?

Yolanda Martin: Yes, yes.

Chairman Yakupzack: Does that explanation help?

Commissioner Hogan: Yes.

Chairman Yakupzack: So with that – Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: I'd like to make a motion to adopt the amendment that I proposed.

Chairman Yakupzack: I have a motion by Commissioner Sunseri to table with no second. So the motion fails. Commissioner Courville, would you like to make a motion?

Commissioner Courville: I'd like to make a motion to adopt the amendment, as I read with the items in red noted in your packet for inclusion in this. Would you like me to read it again?

Commissioner Smitko: Yes, I would. Because what I have on my email doesn't seem -- I'm not sure it's the full thing.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Commissioner Courville: I'd be happy to read it again, if that's the pleasure of the commission or the public.

Chairman Yakupzack: May I recommend that you read it without notating what you've changed.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Chairman Yakupzack: Just read it fluidly through for the record, so we can follow along.

Commissioner Courville: Here's how it would read. Article B. No person shall import, transport or possess any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating outside of Louisiana except for meat that is cut and wrapped, meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, antlers, clean skull

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plates with antlers, clean skulls without tissue attached, capes and hides, finished taxidermy mounts and clean cervid teeth. Approved parts or meat as noted above transported from other states must be legally possessed from the state it was taken. Approved parts and meat as noted above from other states must contain a possession tag with the hunter's name, out-of-state license number if required, address, species, date and location, county and state of harvest. Any and all bones shall be disposed of in a manner, uh, and this is a typo, obviously on my part, eliminating in where its final destination is at a Type 2 landfill or equivalent. All cervids transported into or through this state in violation of the provision of this ban shall be seized and disposed of in accordance with Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' rules and regulations. Said rule shall be effective March 1, 2017.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville, may I ask a question?

Commissioner Courville: Sure.

Chairman Yakupzack: So we all understand correctly, your changes to the NOI drafted by the department, approved by this commission, passed by this commission, the changes, or the change is simply that you are allowing the importation of cervid quarters.

Commissioner Courville: Bone-in quarters. That's the only change, and I'm making it effective March 1st, which would allow for an education period this current hunting season.

Commissioner Smitko: Question, Commissioner.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: Chairman. Why are you allowing the bone-in quarters? It was my

understanding that the bones, any bones, not just the spinal column, could potentially transmit the little –

Commissioner Courville: Correct. The bone-in quarters would make it consistent for transporting of deer meat amongst states. If you recall, Texas is the big issue where they have a bone-in quarter requirement. That if I kill a deer in Texas, I'm required to possess it in Texas with bone in, so a lot of the public comment we heard was that all right, so I kill a deer in Texas. I've got it in my ice chest; it's got a bone in. Right there at the Texas-Louisiana line, what do I do? I'm either going to violate them, or I'm going to violate Louisiana. I'm sure they have an opportunity to go to a meat processor in Texas and get it deboned and get it tagged, and then they can move it, but this allows for that transportation across state lines to be a little bit more manageable, and as I appreciate the prions that are located in the bone, that's why they're required to dispose of them at an approved Type 2 landfill. Which, as I appreciate it from Dr. LaCore's presentation, that's an acceptable means of disposal. So my thinking is that bone-in quarter from, I keep beatin' up Texas, but I'm going to use them. He's placed in my ice chest, he comes into the state. If I choose to debone it, that's obviously my business, or if I bring it to a processor, I debone it, I bag it up, I put it in my garbage can at the front of my house, the garbage man takes it to, as I appreciate it, typically those household waste is disposed at a Type 2 landfill, and we've done a reasonable job of containing the trace amounts of the prions that are in that bone. So is it an absolute perfect scenario to keep it out? Probably not, but it's probably the most reasonable thing that I can come up with at this time. Assuming Texas eliminates their bone-in requirement, I'll say this publicly, I reserve the right to bring this back up, assuming Texas does that and then maybe I would encourage the commission to consider to strike that, but at this time, in my judgment, this is the most reasonable mechanism to try and prevent CWD from coming into the state. So it still does not allow the brain, the spinal column,

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the lymph nodes, any of that, and I use the example if I take my son deer hunting in Texas, I'm going to go over there, and hopefully he kills a nice deer, and I've asked the Louisiana Taxidermy Association to provide some information that we could perhaps put on the department web site to teach people how to fully cape out a deer. But more than likely, if he kills a good one, I'm going to find a taxidermist in Texas and say look, cape this thing out for me and ship it to a taxidermist in Louisiana. And then we're going to cut the skull plate out, and he's going to be all excited, and we're going to go to his school, and he's going to drag that around. I'll bring it to the taxidermist, and he's going to mount it for me here in Louisiana. So I think this isn't perfect, it's not what everybody wants, but it's reasonably close to the intent of the department's outstanding recommendation to keep it out, but also factoring in that public comment.

Randy Myers: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to --

Chairman Yakupzack: Assistant Secretary Randy Meyers.

Randy Myers: Thank you. I would just like to point out, and I just discussed this with Dr. LaCore, if you would consider taking out the word "Type 2 landfill" and just say "approved landfill".

Commissioner Courville: Sure.

Randy Myers: That again, Type 2 was a special designation for industrial-type waste, and any approved landfill, that would be acceptable.

Commissioner Courville: Approved landfill is a hundred percent comfortable with me. I was pirating it from his presentation anyway, so if he's good with it, I'm good with it. Would you like me to reread that part of that? From an approved landfill.

Chairman Yakupzack: Yeah, from the motion, which doesn't yet have a second, the motion will read, as Commissioner Courville read, without the words "Type 2", and in their place "approved".

Commissioner Courville: An approved landfill. I guess we don't need equivalent then.

Chairman Yakupzack: Correct.

Commissioner Courville: And strike "or equivalent".

Chairman Yakupzack: So that motion as I've capture the best I can is on the table. Do we have a second?

Commissioner Hogan: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: A second from Commissioner Hogan. Any public comment? This motion is to adopt an amendment to the standing NOI, as proposed here today, as motioned by Commissioner Courville, a second by Commissioner Hogan. All those in favor? I'm sorry. Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Courville. I'm good with this. The one thing that I have concern about, and I will publicly state that the enforceability of this is a concern to me. I still believe down the line that we need to try to get a legislator to look at some of these additional items that I had in my motion so that we could try to make it more enforceable because it's going to be difficult to monitor and track what's coming in and going out. But I am in favor of your motion and support it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Any other comment? All those in favor?

All: Yea.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion carries. Agenda Item No. 16: To Receive Public Comments. I have one comment card for this area who would like to speak, Mr. David Cresson, representing CCA. If anyone else would like to make public comment at this time, please fill out a white card at the back of the room and get it to Ms. Angela Thomas in the next couple of minutes. Thank you.

David Cresson: Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you Commissioners. Appreciate the opportunity to speak in front of you today. I'll be very brief. I'm really here to echo the sentiments of the Commission from earlier, when you gave accolades to the Enforcement Division and Wildlife and Fisheries for their excellence during the flood events of recent times, and so, with that in mind, we had something a little more formal to present, but we couldn't quite get that done today. But if you would allow me, I'd like to still say this to the commission and in a more public setting, on behalf of 25,000 Coastal Conservation Association members in Louisiana, the Board of Directors recognizes the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for their outstanding and heroic service to the citizens of Louisiana during historic floods of 2016. Through the selfless efforts of these men and women, thousands of flood victims were rescued from harm's way and returned to safety. We will invite Colonel Broussard, and anyone from his staff that he'd like to come to our board meeting later this fall, and we'll actually make a presentation, but I thought it was important that we say this to the commission in a public setting to where our appreciation was made clear. So Colonel Broussard, thank you to you and your incredible staff. I saw it firsthand. There was real danger out there, and we really appreciate it, so thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Cresson. Any further public comment? I'd like to take a minute in this public comment to

address an issue. Typically we have on the agenda an agenda item to set a commission meeting well out in advance, and what that date today would be is the January 2017 commission meeting. It's not on the agenda. We'll be sure to have it on the agenda to set that meeting time and date next month, but for those of you who plan that far ahead, I'd like to note, unless there's objection from the commission, that the first Thursday of the month for the January, 2017 is the 5th, and I'd like to at least give you all a heads up that that is when the January meeting will be is on January 5th, 2017. And then we'll more formally recognize that next month. So sorry for any inconvenience that that's not on the agenda. With that, I'll gladly take a motion for adjournment.

Commissioner Courville: So moved.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville moved to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yakupzack: Good morning. Welcome to the July 7, 2016, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting. I call this meeting to order. Commissioner Courville, will you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Courville: All right, stand, please. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Brogdon, will you please call the roll.

Ms. Brogdon: Chairman Yakupzack.

Chairman Yakupzack: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Chad Courville.

Chad Courville: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Bill Hogan.

Bill Hogan: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Pat Manuel.

Ms. Brogdon: Bobby Samanie.

Bobby Samanie: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Al Sunseri.

Al Sunseri: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Mr. Chairman, there are five commissioners in attendance. We have a quorum. Secretary Melancon is also present today.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Agenda Item No. 4, approval of the June 2, 2016 commission meeting minutes. Has the commission had the chance to review the minutes?

Commissioner Courville: So move to approve.

Commissioner Hogan: Second.

Next Speaker: Motion by Commissioner Courville to approve the June minute meeting minutes. A second by Commissioner Hogan, any public comment. All those in favor.

All: I.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion passes. Agenda Item No. 5: Commission Special Announcements Personal Privilege. I'd like to turn over the floor to Secretary Melancon.

Secretary Melancon: Thank you. Mr. Chairman. It's good to be with you this morning and have you and the Commission here. I would like to, if I can, the last meeting we had the opportunity of introducing Mr. Bill Hogan from Ruston, who is a new at large member. This week, this month meeting here, we have two new members that are serving on their first meeting with the Commission. Robert, Bobby Samanie. Bobby is originally from South Terrebonne Parish. Relocated and living in Meraux now. He has been in the seafood business now for 40 plus years. I think that means you're either younger or you start young, Bobby, I'm not sure. But he's a native of Terrebonne Parish, been active as president of the American Shrimp Processors Association. He also serves on the Governor's Task Force and Shrimp

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Management, the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, the Louisiana Shrimp Industry Review Panel, Louisiana Seafood Standards of Identity Task Force and the Louisiana Seafood Industry Advisory Board. Bobby will be serving as a commercial member of the Commission. Welcome, Bobby.

Bobby Samanie: Thank you.

Secretary Melancon: The second new member is Alfred 'Al' Sunseri. Al, for those of you who like oysters, has been in the oyster business his entire life with his brother. They have P & J Oyster Company in New Orleans. He's the owner and general manager, is a lifelong Louisiana resident. He's only managed his family oyster business and has been an advocate for Louisiana and Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry since 1985. He was founding member of the Gulf Oyster Industry Council and served on several oyster boards. Al lives in New Orleans and finished college at Southeastern in Hammond. Al's term runs to 2020. Al, it's a pleasure to welcome you to the commission, and I hope y'all have as much fun as y'all can stand.

Al Sunseri: Thank you.

Secretary Melancon: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: On behalf of the Commission, welcome gentlemen. I do know if you care to if you want to say a few words, it's up to you guys.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri

Al Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Commission. Mr. Secretary and people in the audience, this is humbling thing for me to be put on this commission. It means a lot. I've spent my entire life working with the oyster business. My family's been in the business, for 140 years and I'm very proud and humbled by this opportunity and hopefully we'll be able to do a lot of good things over these next few years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Commissioner Sunseri, Commissioner Samanie

Bobby Samanie: My name is Bobby Samanie. I'm originally from Terrebonne Parish, and my family has been in the shrimp business since 1938. We started off canning shrimp. We've changed directions with the industry as it's changed. Four years ago I moved to Saint Bernard Parish where the company I worked for opened up one of the largest plants in the state. We do any, anywhere between a hundred and 150,000 pounds of shrimp per day we process. I've served on this commission before and it's really an honor to help manage Louisiana's natural resources, and it's a large responsibility. I promise y'all I'm going to give it the best that I can, and I'm sure y'all won't be disappointed. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Commissioner Samanie. Any other special announcements or personal privilege by the Commission? Agenda Item No. 6, to hear enforcement reports from June, Captain Skena.

Captain Skena: Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the

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Commission. For the month of June, we had 14 boating incidents, 12 injuries and 3 fatalities. We had 734 written citations, 424 written warnings, and 23 public assists. Inside your folder there is a few news releases from last month. Here are a synopsis of those new releases. While conducting a boating safety check in Terrebonne Parish, enforcement agent cited a subject for possessing 26 black bass, 16 over the legal limit. If convicted, the subject faces criminal fines, up to 60 days in jail and could be charged civil restitution for the illegally taken fish. The fish were seized and donated to a local charity. Agents responded to an anonymous tip in Lafourche Parish and cited four people for taking oysters off a private lease and from a polluted area. One of the subjects was additionally cited for not possessing a commercial gear license. Each subject faces criminal fines; up to 90 days in jail; 40 hours of community service; only allowed to fish oysters from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring device and possible revocation of their oyster harvester's license. The agency seized nine sacks of oysters and returned them to the water. They also seized the vessel and dredge on a department seizure order. Alan Gaspard, the second subject involved in cutting down trees on Spring Bayou Wildlife Management area was sentenced on June 16 in Avoyelles Parish for his involvement in cutting down over a hundred trees in order to block navigable access to an area where he regularly hunted. Gaspard was ordered to serve 2 years in jail suspended, pay \$250.00 to the Criminal Court Fund, \$400.00 in court cost, and \$20,000.00 in civil restitution to the department. In addition to those monetary fines, the subject was also given 5 years of probation during which time he will not be allowed on any wildlife management area and not allowed to possess recreational hunting or fishing licenses. On

June 29th, the enforcement academy graduated the 30th cadet class. Nine new agents have been added to our ranks and we wish them luck in their new careers. This concludes the enforcement report, unless there are questions, sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions for Captain Skena? Thank you, Captain Skena.

Captain Skena: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda Item No. 7, a hearing update by Ducks Unlimited on the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission funded waterfowl breeding grounds habitat work in Canada. Presenting here today is Mr. Dave Kustersky.

Mr. Dave Kustersky: Thank you, Chairman Yakupzack, Secretary Melancon, much appreciate the time on your agenda today to give you an update on the funds that you've dedicated to conservation on the Canadian breeding grounds. This is a 52-year, or 51-year partnership with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and I'd like to just give you a really good snapshot. In your packets as well, is a report that has obviously more detail than what I'll present today. This contract year, the first year of a 3-year proposal that we provided is focused on three, two different major activities, habitat retention and habitat restoration. The habitat retention, land purchase, conservation easements are both perpetual in nature. They are there forever, and that's where the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries funds are focused. We also do conservation agreements as part of this. Pothole restoration, dense nesting cover; which is that nesting habitat for upland nesting ducks and forages and winter wheat. And all those programs are part of the proposal and use partner money, DU money and other noncom monies and other partners

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to make that happen. This is a Durr land purchase. This purchase was 315 acres south of Saskatoon Saskatchewan. As you can see it is about a half section of land that's got a lot of wetlands on it. The uplands were cultivated, so we will be converting that to grass, and we purchased that with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries monies along with other partner monies, including DU. This land was purchased for an average price of \$606.00 per acre and is located in the Allen Dana Hills priority area. This is one of our highest waterfowl density landscapes with over 60 pairs per square miles in this landscape. On this project, there also was a wetland that one in the picture on the right that had been drained a large ditch coming out of it. So, as part of the purchase we restore any wetlands that have been drained, so that's the process of filling in that ditch that was created a number of years ago to drain that wetland. This is a conservation easement that was purchased. Martin's Olson Conservation Easement also in this last year this easement is 850 acres of incredible habitat in the Allen Dana Hills as well. High waterfowl density, high wetland density. This land was paid perpetual conservation easement for \$208.00 per acre on this particular piece of land. So, a pretty reasonable rate to get that there forever. All the wetlands and grasslands and habitat that you see there will be there in perpetuity. This is a project that was done with partner money. Matter for Marsh Wetland Rebuild. So this project is about replacing those culverts. This project was originally built in 1980. It served its life and needed to be rebuilt. So the culverts and some of the structure was dug out, replaced at the cost of about \$66.00 per acre and it's a 915-acre marsh. Wetland rebuilds we go through an extensive revision process where we look at these things, make sure they are still productive for waterfowl. This one was an

incredible project, which is part of a larger complex of wetlands called Yorton South, and this one in particular just needed to be restored. We resigned all the agreements with the landowners to make sure this is there for another at least 30 years. This is a wetland restoration. Gaul Wetland Restoration, one small wetland within the landscape, and these are really what we targeted, these small wetlands 2.9 acre restoration. We do larger ones if there is an opportunity. But frankly what we've lost across the landscape is small wetland. That's what carries the waterfowl productivity on the breeding grounds is all these little wetlands that have been drained. So restoring this wetland is about putting that plug. That picture on the right is just the earth and plug that we use, a cat, and I've got other pictures that it'll show you a little bit more on how you can do that. But basically 2.9-acre wetland restored and it cost about \$700.00 an acre to do that. Wet Project Nesting Covers. This is a piece of property that we purchased about 3 years ago and we got it seeded to grass this past year. Spent the money on it to put it to a nesting cover. This nesting cover is critical for waterfowl. This particular quarter section of the land had 85 acres of broken land or cultivated land that we planted to grass. And what we're trying to do is make it do this, create nests. So that was planted the first the year. We put a cover crop so they harvest, and then next year it'll be left idle and left idle, but typically harvested once every 4 to 5 years. So it's idle sitting there for ducks to nest in every year. And then you have to rejuvenate it, you've got to cut it or graze it in order to keep it healthy, but that's what we're trying to raise is ducks. Another project that we do is called 'winter wheat'. This is a field of winter wheat that was seeded last fall, October 1 that was the picture, that's about 3 weeks after it was seeded. So this go, over winter it survives

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over the winter. In May 3, 2016 this field looked like that. It is starting to provide a little bit of habitat, but not, no not a lot, pintails will nest in that. So this is what it looked on June 16, so it turns into this really lush vegetation that you can hide a nest in. Really attractive for Gadwall, later nesting Mallards, blue-wing teal, pintail a bunch of different species utilize this. This is one of our most effective partnerships with agriculture on the landscape. That annual crop that typically is spring, if we can get them to seed it in the fall it can provide tremendous nest cover for the waterfowl and some of the highest nest successes in the winter wheat program. I've got two more projects I wanted to show you. This is the Ingle Purchase. This is a quarter section that we purchased outright. We'll have it forever keep it in perpetuity and there is a number of wetland restorations on this project you can see it. A number of small downs and I'll show you a picture in a bit of how it looks when we build those. This project in particular, you know that you can see that it has a whole bunch of water on it and all the green area that is crosshatched that's all going to be planted to nesting cover. When we buy it we typically have to do some weed control to get it all in shape so we can plant a good mix of grassland species that can survive and compete. This is a conservation easement. This is a paid conservation easement also in the Allen Dana Hills. As you can see, we restored a fairly large wetland on the west side and a smaller one in the middle. Again on this conservation easement this one was paid to keep all the wetlands and the existing grasslands on the landscape. The Ingle Purchase was \$101.00 per acre to purchase that piece of land, the one on the left and that conservation easement we paid \$235.00 an acre to have that habitat in perpetuity. So these are very cost-effective programs to have habitat on the ground

forever. This is really what it looks like when we restore a wetland. It's as simple as taking a small dozer D-3 CAT or so and pushing up some dirt and filling a ditch. That's really what most of our wetland drainage is. When you deal with the Canadian prairies we don't have a whole lot of title drainage yet. Thank, God. Thank goodness that is mostly ditch and like this, that we can go back and restore it when we can get a CAT out there for a few bucks and push the dirt back in and then sign an easement and put it there forever. So this is really the opportunity to put those back on the ground and it's a pretty simple process. So that's a number of projects that we did. That's not all that we did with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries money because certainly it would take a much longer presentation for me to talk about every project. But these are some of the highlights of projects that we are able to do, because you provided some dollars to Canada. This is why we do it. As you know, a number of, significant portion of the waterfowl that winter down here in Louisiana that you get the opportunity to hunt and harvest, come from the breeding grounds in Canada. The band return information clearly demonstrates that connection to Saskatchewan and the other prairie providences as well as the northern U.S. So providing that support up there is what provides that habitat. We just don't have, it's a vast, vast landscape. We do not have the resources to do all the conservation work that needs to be done to make this landscape productive for waterfowl for years to come. So with your partnership we are able to make a difference. In Saskatchewan, your dollars were focused on some of these habitats the Allen Dana Hills, I mentioned right in the middle of the providence. The Upper Sina bonne is on the east side of the providence and then the lighting creek landscape is in the southeast, so those are

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some of the landscapes of those projects I, I showed you fall in. But, we obviously work in all these red areas and that's a thunderstorm map that gives you waterfowl densities. The hotter the color, the higher the waterfowl density and that's driven primarily by high wetland densities, lots of water on the landscape. Why do we need to do this? Well, we continue to lose habitat. This is a scene from 1958, and it, and it identifies all the wetlands and kind of that line as agricultural drainage has been moving east to west in this landscape. This is the same landscape in 2010 continued loss of wetlands as you go west. It spreads as you get a network of ditches, they just continue to add ditches to the landscape. Here's another scene of wetlands in 1958 and here's a scene in 2010 of those same wetlands. That entire property has been drained. This is the landscape that we have to deal with, there is a number of these in Saskatchewan in some of our priority areas. As you can see with all those wetlands there, you would have 20 to 30 wetlands per a quarter section for 160 acres on that landscape, now they're gone. This is the landscape that we need to work in to restore those wetlands and protect what's left. What do we lose, obviously we lose our waterfowl and wildlife factories if we lose wetlands. We lose flood protection, places to hunt with friends and our health our most valued commodity on earth is water and we lose our quality of life just having that place to go. So how did we do it? Last year, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provided \$328,702.00. Ducks Unlimited committed to patch that with an equal amount of money and we used those dollars to apply for and got approved for \$657,404.00 U.S. Therefore every dollar that Louisiana provided, we added \$3.00 at minimum. This is just the basic match that we provide. Ducks Unlimited has many other sources of matching, including other

Canadian dollars and 39 other states, fish and wildlife agencies that provide money to do work on the breeding grounds in Canada, of which 12 more in the, in the providence of Saskatchewan. So you're one of 13 states that provides money to do breeding grounds work in Saskatchewan. Your investment of \$328,702.00 leveraged to \$1.3 million. As you know the Canadian and the U.S. dollar always fluctuate in value. Well, right now your dollar is a lot stronger than ours. So we were able to get an exchange gain of 1.3. So that \$1.3 million turned into \$1.7 million on the breeding grounds in Canada when you turn it into Canadian funds. So we were able to expand over \$1.7 million dollars on conservation and habitat. The goals that we propose to do in this first year of this propos, of the three year proposal was to retain 3,500 acres of habitat, restore 67 acres of wetlands, and restore 900 acres of grassland through upland as well as continue to manage over 90,000 acres. What we were able to do was over 5,400 acres of habitat retention, 85 acres of wetland restoration, and over 1,700 acres of upland restoration and managed 150,000 acres of existing habitat. So far exceeded the, the planned goals for the funding that we had requested and spent the majority of the money as you can see in habitat retention. I flip up the next slide – this has the detail it's in the report I provided. I am not going to go into detail as obviously, there is, there is more numbers in here than we intend to or care to go through right now. But clearly, a big chunk if you look at the top four categories those are all perpetual protection. That adds up to over a million dollars of the \$1.1 million spent out of this budget. That's where Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries dollars are dedicated just into that perpetual activity. Keeping those grasslands and wetlands there forever. Acres equals ducks. It's as simple as that. You put grass on the landscape, you restore grasslands,

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you protect grasslands, and you're going to get waterfowl, that's what the limiting factor is. That is how the landscape has changed and that's what's caused our issues with waterfowl production over the years. If you restore wetlands, you get ducks, the same thing. We need grasslands and wetlands to have waterfowl produced on the breeding grounds of Canada. It's that partnership that you have bought into, that you've invested into that allows Ducks Unlimited to go up there and make difference on the breeding grounds. We've been doing this for 77 years up in Canada, 78 years here in the U.S. Our conservation work is, is long, and your partnership in fact has been as I mentioned 51 years, so that's 77 years we've existed. So that partnership is absolutely critical to ensuring that we continue to do the right thing on the breeding grounds and make a difference for waterfowl. With that, I want to thank Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for your partnership; for your ongoing support of conservation on the Canadian breeding grounds. The prairie pothole region in Canada is the breadbasket of waterfowl production for this continent. Your partnership in making that happen and continuing to support the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Ducks Unlimited and conservation work on the breeding grounds is critical and valued. In my last comments I'll say that what the breeding grounds look like today. We're a little drier than we've been for a while. I wouldn't say we're into the hardcore part of a drought, but we certainly are a lot drier than we have been. The true prairie part, the southern part of Saskatchewan and Alberta are fairly dry. It was quite dry this spring and so not a lot of habitat there for the, for the ducks coming up early in the spring. The parklands, which is just north of that south of the Boreal Forest, was a little bit wetter and has received significant rain

especially in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. So we are going to have bird production. It won't be, I don't believe what we've seen over the last number of years, but frankly some of the wetlands do need to dry out. So it's this cycle that's critical. The risk that we run is as things dry out, there is that risk that the agriculture will go after those ponds that are left. They can access those ponds, get ditches into them and we can lose more habitat. So we have to stay diligent continue to do this conservation work and make a difference on the breeding grounds. If you have any questions, I will be more than happy to answer.

Chairman Yakupzack: No questions from the Commission, we appreciate your presentation Dave, and I do have one public comment here who does not wish to speak, Mr. Charles Williams of the Louisiana Waterfowl Alliance is here, and notes that their organization is very interested in these waterfowl project reports.

Mr. Dave Kustersky: Excellent. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: So, thank you. Agenda Item No. 8. To hear and update on the White Fronted Goose Telemetry Project. Mr. Paul Link, presenting.

Mr. Paul Link: All right. Thanks, Chairman, members of the Commission. My name is Paul Link. I'm the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator here at Wildlife and Fisheries. And today I am here to give you an update on the White Fronted Goose Research Project that we started last fall. Since we do have a quite a few new faces in the room this morning, I'm going to again, go over a lot of the information that you saw at the last update before getting into the updates of what we've learned over the last winter and

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this spring. First briefly talk about the technology advancements. This project couldn't have come at a better time. Two years ago if we had wanted to do this project, we'd have been using the transmitter pictured on the left, which is a satellite PTT transmitter they are quite large, they are 80 grams, they're mounted via a backpack with a double-bodied loop harness system, that have relatively limited data capabilities. You can get four to seven locations per day. They're transmitted back through the satellites which are slow and expensive and they're just relatively cumbersome. The transmitter on the right is what we deployed last winter. It's cutting edge technology. These are the first wild birds to carry that transmitter in the wild. They collect the data via the same satellites, but then they transmit it through cellular tower networks, which allows to collect a lot more locations daily and then transmit it very quickly and efficiently through the cellular tower network. And they are also quite a bit cheaper. Believe it or not to. Again, moving on to the technology itself, these things are solar powered. Birds are incredibly lightweight they evolved for flight which is, weight you know, pretty important to minimize weight. So they have a solar battery, they have sub meter accuracy, which is very important for classifying locations and finding what these birds are doing. Again the duration of locations we can collect, we program these to collect locations every 30 minutes both day and night last winter. An important thing too they can store up to 45,000 locations on board in a hard drive. These things aren't in cell phone range as a lot of you guys are aware, and they breed and spend the summer in areas that hopefully will never have cell phone coverage, and they also collect a lot of important information that's previously not been able to be recorded. Abiotic and ambient data are

recorded every time those things log a lat and long. And, when, when the birds are in flight they have an accelerometer that allows them to, to generate at altitude speed the bearing of their flight, and a bunch of other, information that is probably not quite as critical to us at this point. And lastly, these transmitters since they are solar powered, they have a life expectancy of 3 to 4 years. So we're going to get this fall's migration and up to two more which they are going to allow us to look at migration stopovers, breeding ranges, filopatry, site fidelity and a whole bunch of other things that have previously been unknown to us. But first I had to catch them. These things aren't very easy catch. Primarily, because they won't get on bait like most other waterfowl will. That's pretty helpful when you can go dump a bag of grain out and get a bunch of bird's heads down on something. White fronts for some reason or other don't like a, a free handout, and they're also incredibly weary. Long live the smart birds, so they don't want to approach anything out of the ordinary. This is one particular set that I made on Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, that clump of vegetation there is a net box, that I designed for this project that allowed me to trap out in these wide-open habitats and hide the nets. Occasionally hid the nets a little bit too well. That clump of vegetation on the far right is a 40 by 50 net that's going to be coming out of a small box. Everything on the right half, the right half of the side of the picture would probably be killed and injured and everything on the left would probably have the net fly right over the top of them. So sometimes we hit them a little too well. But after about 8 hours of waiting for those birds to finally move off of that site, we were able to fire the net. This particular capture was 13 birds we marked, 11 total birds, all adults. Roughly three fourths females and the remainder males. We were able to determine age and sex, glue

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the transmitters on, hold for a few minutes, let them orient to their new jewelry and then release them back at their capture sites with their, their counterparts, usually within a half an hour. And then it was simply a matter of waiting for the data. I was also able to get visuals on a couple of these birds. And I was pretty happy to find out that they were acting normally a few days after letting these go I came across this bird here that was still, still with it pair, with its mate, and it's young were also in toe. They were about 10 yards beyond this and out of the spotting scope range, but they were acting pretty normally. Getting around pretty well so that was encouraging to see. And then it's simply a matter of waiting for those birds to fly back within range of a cell tower. This is what that data looks like, again, I don't expect you to see all this, but it's a pretty, pretty cumbersome large file. There is a lot of really basic things that are important in here. Like a date and time stamp, the lat and long but then also a lot of other things, the speed, the solar outlook, temperature, barometric pressure, lots of other things that we're going to be able to use analytically later down the road. It makes a little more sense when you pull out this information, in some kind of mapping software. This is what that one individual's bird looks like. The squares are stationary locations. When a bird is basically walking or resting, preening, doing some other kind of non-movement type activity and the triangles are birds in flight. Anything over 7 kilometers per hour. And then the lines connect to locations, so every point on here is 30 minutes apart. I'll go through a couple of examples of some birds. This was a bird named Seafly that marked near Thornwell in October. Shortly after marking her, she moved around between the Elton and Fenton area for a couple of weeks and then back down into the Thornwell area. On opening weekend of the coastal zone, she took off.

She apparently thought World War III was coming and got out of the coastal zone. Went up to the Monroe area up between Winnsboro and Monroe, hung out there for two weeks, and then on opening morning of the east zone, she again took off, heading north, northeast out of the Monroe area for Arkansas. You can see some of the data associated with her. She was at the, the time stamp on there is UTC that Universal time so you need to subtract 6 hours, so at 6:46 on that Saturday of opening morning of the east zone she was heading out 38 knots at 451 meters, getting pretty, pretty interesting information and she never returned to Louisiana after that she stayed north. Another bird named GS365 a couple of days after we marked her near Thornwell she took off to Stuttgart, flew nonstop to Stuttgart. Spent less than one day there, and came right back to the exact same field that we captured her in. Pretty remarkable movements and that bird as well stuck around in Louisiana until opening weekend of the coastal zone. Went to that same general area near Monroe for just a few days and left Louisiana prior to the east zone opening. Spent another week or so near Lake Village, Arkansas and then bounced up to the northern MVA, eventually spending most of the winter in the Boot Hill, Missouri, but again, never came back to Louisiana throughout the winter. So where am I know. I've been working with Dr. Collier over at LSU on some neat home range maps. This one of the, the few birds that stayed in southwest Louisiana long enough to give us some data in the area that we were primarily interested in. These large polygons are 95 percent home range estimate maps and the smaller shaded areas within those polygons are the 50 percent core areas. And basically what I'm trying to show here is that the birds move around a lot more during the hunted time periods than they do during the split. They basically

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don't move during the split. They find their groceries. They're basically undisturbed, so they don't move around a whole lot. Not surprisingly. And perhaps the more important thing I'm trying to do right now is classify all these locations. I have roughly 60,000 locations on these 11 birds, from the time we let them go until they either went off line or left cell phone tower coverage. So I'm trying to identify every point. All of these 60,000 locations, primarily using remote sensing stuff, which I've learned has a fairly large error rate, which I'm going to be trying to work around trying to ground truth and to verify some of these locations down the road. But once we get all these locations classified, it's going to be pretty important for us. We're going to be able to go back and model the habitat use through time. Going back in and looking at historic data, but I don't think many of us are going to be surprised if we find that there is less capacity of the landscape to the winter white fronts now, as in the past. More importantly where are they are now? We had seven birds that survived the winter and made it back to Canada. This is the last locations that we had on those birds. You can see four of them are on the northern reaches of the prairie pothole region in Canada near the parklands, and three of them miraculously found cell tower range way up in the middle of nowhere. It's also pretty interesting to see where these things are going. Those three lines heading north are heading to very well establish breeding areas for white fronts. So we're pretty excited to see this fall when they start heading back south where they're going to, where they had spent the summer. And just to put this in perspective, where these birds are and in Central Canada right now, it's roughly the same distance from the Gulf Coast to the prairie Canada's. These things make tremendous movements; roughly 3,000 miles one-way. Of course they do this a

minimum of twice a year, plus all those other flights throughout the winter. So these things are really getting around a lot. So what about the others, we had seven that made it back to Canada this spring. We had two that I suspect were crippled and un-retrieved by hunters. I had two banded birds that were banded and captured with two birds that were radio marked that were called into the bird-banning lab and reported. I got the contact information for those hunters and called them and chatted with them a little bit and both of them had recalled pulling feathers or sailing birds off that they were unable to retrieve. So it seems less than coincidental that they went offline on the same day that birds that were captured and marked with them were killed. We recovered and redeployed one transmitter. We were able to find one transmitter laying in a soybean field near Brinkley, Arkansas. But I was able to send the coordinates to a friend and colleague there who was able to find that transmitter. We suspect it was crippled from a hunter as well. It was about 200 yards from a spread of decoys. and I also want to mention too that the published literature for crippling rates for geese runs from 25 to nearly 100 percent, so this is pretty typical of what we would expect to lose a couple of birds to hunting and crippling. I suspect we had one transmitter failure. One of these birds had a declining solar panel. We suspect it had a declining voltage over the couple days prior to it going offline. We don't know what happened with that. But we suspect a failure. And then we have one that we simply have no information leading us any indication of why it went off line, but lots of things happen to these. if they killed by a rapture, fly into a tower or something and, and land face down in the mud, they aren't going to charge or if they are out of cell phone tower we're just never going to hear from them again. But overall it's a pretty

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good rate to have 7 of 11 birds make it to the prairies. We're pretty excited about that. So our future plans, we are going to continue monitoring the seven birds. Hopefully they are all going to survive the summer and head back south with their young and all that data. We're also going to deploy 15 to 20 more units this fall. And then again, hopefully in the fall of 2017 and we have a whole host of analytical opportunities with this data. There is so, there's so much information coming in here that it's kind of hard to wrap our head around right now with what we have. But I'm hoping to find somebody with more time and more analytical capabilities than me down the road to help with this stuff. again, the, the, going to deploy more units for each of the next two years and there is quite a few new advancements in technology this year again that are going to allow us to get even more unprecedented information. They've been able to reduce the size of the transmitters by 5 grams. They've got a new microprocessor in them that is going to allow us to differentiate between different movements behaviors. They say that they are going to be able to tell us when a bird is actively foraging. When its neck is moving around in this particular behavior or when it's preening or sleeping or flying, so we're going to have all kinds of new energetics type stuff that we'll be able to do and time budget stuff done remotely through these transmitters. So pretty exciting stuff and lastly, I'd like to thank all of our donors that helped make this happen. All those transmitters were purchased by a private individuals with their own money who stepped up, probably not knowing how risky their investment would be. These transmitters again had never been deployed on birds. So basically like buying a fancy \$3,000.00 laptop computer and just throwing it in the air and hoping that you get something out of it. So again, we, we really

appreciate their support for making this happen and particularly Chad and Bart for their work get this project up and going off the ground. With that, I'll take any questions?

Chairman Yakupzack: No questions from the Commission, it appears Paul. I would just like to make a comment and thank you and Larry Reynolds. The entire waterfowl staff for taking on what appears to be a cutting edge investigation and study. We're proud of you all and proud of this department for being a leader in these wintering birds that are so dear to so many. Being a leader in these wintering birds, in research on their habits when they come down the flyway. Thank you. Moving on, we have Agenda Item No. 9 to consider a Declaration of Emergency for extended falconry season for Rails and Gallinules. Presenting, Mr. Steve Smith.

Mr. Steve Smith: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name's Steve Smith. I'm the WMA program manager for our wildlife division. I am also responsible for preparing and proposing our annual notice of intent for hunting season rules and regs. The notice of intent was proposed and adopted in April by you guys, and subsequently we discovered 1 error in the proposed and adopted migratory bird seasons and that was the extended falconry season for Rails and Gallinule. As you know, we are provided with a framework by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each year within which we can adopt seasons. The proposed season which you adopted for extended falconry for Rails and Gallinule was off, erroneously, by 1 day, and this Declaration of Emergency would be a measure to correct that error, so with that I ask you to consider this Declaration of Emergency changing the extended falconry for Rails and Gallinule

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from November 2nd through January 31st to November 3rd through January 31st therefore placing that season within that allowable framework by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any questions?

Chairman Yakupzack:
Commissioner Courville?

Commissioner Courville: Run, run that, run those dates again that you're looking for?

Mr. Steve Smith: Okay. That, it would be a change. What was adopted is November 2nd

Commissioner Courville: Right.

Mr. Steve Smith: – through January 31, okay? We would change it to November 3rd through January 31. It would basically shorten it by 1 day.

Commissioner Courville: Okay the, the DE's saying November 1st that I'm reading.

Next Speaker: It's a, I'm sorry, it's effective, it will become effective November 1st. DEs are only good for a certain –

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Mr. Steve Smith: – period of time; therefore, it would have to become effective November 1st to carry through January 31.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Mr. Steve Smith: But the actual date is November 3rd.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Mr. Steve Smith: Yes sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any other question or discussion? Do we have a motion?

Commissioner Samanie: So Moved.

Chairman Yakupzack: Motion by Commissioner Samanie.

Commissioner Courville: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: Second by Commissioner Courville. Any public comment on this matter? Seeing no public comment all those in favor?

All: I.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition the motion carries.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. Smith. Agenda Item No. 10, to hear and update on the public comments on the black bass regulations on the Sabine River notice of intent presented May 5, 2016. Presenting is Mr. Alex Perret.

Mr. Alex Perret: Good morning Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. My name is Alex Perret. I am the operations manager for Inland Fisheries here this morning just to report results of our public comment period that we had which was notice of intent to reduce the large-mouth bass regulations on the Lower Sabine River to 12 inches. We received a total of 2 comments during the public comment period. Both were favorable to the regulation change. One of the comments was made by a local bass tournament organizer and he was very much in favor of the change. He felt like it would allow them to have more events on that section of the river. According to the notice of intent, the secretary has the authority to finalize this rule and that will be our recommendation and I'll take any questions y'all have. That's it.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions?
Seeing no questions, thank you Mr. Perret –

Mr. Alex Perret: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: – for your presentation. Do you have anything? Okay, moving along Agenda Item No. 11, to consider a notice of intent to establish the rules and regulations on the importation of cervid carcasses. Presenting is Mr. Johnathan Bordelon.

Mr. Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Commission. Today we are proposing for your consideration a cervid carcass importation ban. We define cervids as any animal or of the family cervidy including but not limited to whitetail deer, mule deer, elk, moose, caribou, fallow, axis, red and reindeer. The notice actually reads no person shall import, transport or possess any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating from outside of Louisiana with the following exceptions: Deboned meat, antlers, and clean skull plates with antlers, clean skulls without tissue attached, capes, tanned hides, finished taxidermy products and clean cervid teeth. Approved parts or deboned meat transported from other states must be legally possessed from the state it was taken. Approved parts and deboned meat from other states must contain a possession tag with the hunter's name, out-of-state license number, address, the species, date and location of harvest. Also cervids transported in or through the state in violation of the provisions of the ban shall be seized and disposed of in accordance of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries rules and regulations. So why propose this. One of the reasons we're proposing this and the primary reason is a disease known as chronic wasting disease. We'll refer to it as

CWD from this point. CWD is a neuro-degenerative disease affecting cervids. There is a small thumb drive that each of you are provided. There's actually some great information on there about chronic wasting disease. Dr. Lacour, Louisiana Partner Wildlife and Fisheries' veterinarian presented that to the Commission in April. Of course some of you here today weren't privy to that presentation so I went ahead and put that supplemental information for you to review at your leisure, but CWD it's basically a neural disease. There's prions basically, mutated proteins that are mis-folded. These proteins are actually shed into the environment and basically what happens with this disease is tiny holes are actually eaten into the brain so the animal at some point's going to become emaciated, it's going to become lethargic and it's going to eventually die, perish. What's so scary about this disease is that it persists in the environment without a host so that makes it very different from other diseases that are transmitted between wildlife. This is something that once it's on the landscape it's there for quite for some time. Environmental conditions are going to determine just how long but it's going to be a number of years. There's been cases where infected animals in captive facilities have been depopulated and the area basically void of captive cervids for some time then the area re-stocked and then after it re -stocked they basically come down with the disease again so we know that it persists in the environment and once we have it we're going to basically have to manage it over time so what we're attempting to do is prevent this and that's the method that we're choosing to employ here. A couple of other facts, 1 or 2 years before animals become symptomatic, so it's a slow progression as mentioned before, it's 100 percent fatal in cervids. Prevention is the only method of defense. There's only postpartum testing at

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this time which basically means we have to have a dead animal to get a positive or negative test. 23 states and 2 Canadian providences are infected. All of this data comes from the CWD Alliance. The 23, sometimes read 24, there's some debate and argument. There's some states that on their web site aren't included, because they've had maybe just in captive facilities and no further outbreaks outside of that facility but regardless, its 23 states is the accepted number including 2 Canadian provinces. What is LDWF's response to CWD? First we do have a CWD plan. We've had one back since the early 2000s. It was revised in 2016. In addition to that we have an importation ban for captive cervids. These are basically the live animals. That ban was first implemented by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission back in 1998 as a moratorium. It was renewed again in 2002 and in 2005 it was adopted in perpetuity so we basically don't allow live captive cervids in Louisiana. To back that up the Louisiana Department of Agriculture who regulates the captive cervid industry in Louisiana placed a moratorium on importation in 2012 so basically the borders are closed to live deer, lot, or live cervids from entering the state. One of the other things is we've done some diligent testing dating back to 2002, we've tested 7,870 cervids dating back to that time. Early on we were testing pretty much state-wide. We were just trying to determine if the disease was out there. Our sampling now has become much more focused and targeted. Basically we're testing urologic animals, animals that are symptomatic. We're also testing road kills. We're also testing animals in or adjacent to captive facilities since we deemed those to be the greatest threat. So the third thing or the next step is proposing an actual carcass importation ban. So basically what this is going to do is going to prohibit a hunter who

takes a deer from outside of Louisiana from bringing it in unless they meet those exceptions that we mentioned earlier. Arkansas and Texas are the latest states to test positive. Arkansas, their positives came in 2000 and 16, first from a hunter-harvested deer animal that appeared to be healthy. It was an elk in Newton County, Arkansas. It tested positive. Results came in to them in February. Subsequent to that they had a deer then once they found those two hunter-harvested samples, they intensively harvested animals as an agency within those areas and they turned out many more animals in addition to those hunter-harvested animals. The prevalence rate was actually quite high. At a rate so high, pretty comparable to what you see on the landscape when you've had CWD for a decade or so. So it basically just went undetected which is very scary. One thing I'll mention, they had a pretty diligent testing program, too. They had tested over 7,000 animals before they ever got a positive which is very close to what we tested with 7800. So, it's just a matter of finding it in some cases and that was the case in Arkansas. What we're proposing here today, the carcass importation ban, this isn't anything new. We're not the first to bring this to the table. Right now 36 of 50 states have some form of a carcass importation ban. Information in your packet may say 35 and the reason is Mississippi's actually did not go into effect until late last week. So at the time I put the information together, it was a proposal they had and it was actually finalized as of last week. So they are the 36th and we're proposing to be the 37th state with some form of a carcass importation ban. And it's 23 of 29 eastern states. As mentioned before, CWD, it slowly moves in a wild deer herd. But really the big fear where it hopscotches and jumps across the state is when a live animal is moved and then obviously it's shedding those prions

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into the environment or a cervid carcass is moved and those prions are disposed into the environment where they then can be up taken by cervids and re-infect a new population. If anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them but there's the information in your packets, includes everything I presented including some supplemental information about chronic wasting disease, in addition to some information on Arkansas.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Johnathan, is there any kind of way to treat these animals that are infected with CWD?

Johnathan Bordelon.: No, sir. There's actually no treatment for CWD. Once the animals contract the disease, it's going to be fatal. There's not really even an easy decontamination. This is something that you cannot even kill in the environment with bleach. It takes high heat or an alkaline bath, so it's not necessarily a living organism. It's a mutated protein which can be transmitted or taken up by other animals. It's shed into the environment by urine and feces. You know, that's the primary mode at which it's shed into the environment. And you know, obviously it's also going to be part of that carcass so if that carcass is left to decay in the environment then those prions at that point will become part of the environment and they can actually then at that point infect other animals. So there is no treatment for CWD nor is there any type of vaccine or prevention. You know, your only real tool or method for dealing with the disease is simply just trying to prevent it. So, obviously we're just promoting a preventative measure, in hopes to minimize

the risk of deer in our state being infected by the disease.

Commissioner Sunseri: Is there any way to treat an area that's found to be infected?

Johnathan Bordelon: No, sir. There isn't. Once it's in the environment, it's going to be there.

Commissioner Sunseri: And there's no, and is anyone doing any kind of work on trying to see about eliminating it from the environment or –

Johnathan Bordelon: Yes, sir. There's extensive research being done on chronic wasting disease but at this time there's no practical means of eliminating it from the environment. Obviously it can be in a laboratory setting. It can be destroyed under high heat. For instance, a carcass could be burned up at a high temperature in an incinerator and that will actually destroy the prions. But, you know, those methods obviously just can't be applied to the landscape.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you.

Johnathan Bordelon: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, I –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Bordelon, I got a couple of questions if you can bear with me. So in this notice of intent, so will it be department staff who's going to bear the responsibility of inspecting – how, sort of how do you – so if you develop this ban

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on importation, how do you police it or enforce it? What's that going to look like? Are you going to come to my house? Are you going to go to a taxidermy? How are you going to know?

Johnathan Bordelon: No. Obviously that won't really be a practical approach of enforcing it. We'll have the regulation out there in hopes that the majority of people –

Commissioner Courville: Discourage

Next Speaker: – actually will abide by this rule.

Commissioner Courville Okay.

Johnathan Bordelon: And then if a carcass is observed by our enforcement staff and it doesn't meet any of the provisions listed as far as the tagging requirements, and it's deemed to be a deer from out of state, then they'll have a mean or mechanism for confiscating that animal and removing it, you know, or removing that risk from our landscape or from Louisiana.

Commissioner Courville: So, it, just I sort of playing it out, you would anticipate that a lot of this burden is going to fall on a taxidermist and the taxidermists throughout this state.

Johnathan Bordelon: Certainly.

Commissioner Courville: So an obvious and an easy place to go and sport around and look for this stuff is going to be there. What burden then falls on the taxidermists of this state that if, I'm, and I for some reason go out of state. I shoot a nice deer. I bring it to a taxidermist, whoever. He's got it in his freezer and its sitting' there and maybe I tagged. Maybe I went through the right procedures. Maybe I didn't, but now

it's in his freezer. It's got my tag on it. Does he bear any burden if you will, to ensure that he's not accepting carcasses that will violate the provisions in this new rule that we're considering?

Johnathan Bordelon: And that may be a better question for our legal counsel, or possibly even enforcement but the responsibility would still – I mean, the regulation, would be accepting, if he accepted an intact carcass that didn't meet the exceptions listed, he would be accepting an animal that was basically illegally brought into the state in a violation of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Rules and Regulations.

Commissioner Courville: No, and I don't need an answer today, but it's something as we go through the comment period, we need to be able to answer that because, if I'm a taxidermist, I'm going to want to know that answer.

Johnathan Bordelon: Certainly.

Commissioner Courville: And then beyond that, as an assumed taxidermist, if you will, how am I going to be able to know that, you know, I'm in the business to make money obviously, and I get this kid. I'm assuming these guys are pretty skilled at knowing what isn't parts that would be accepted and parts that wouldn't be accepted, at some point there's going to be some gray area there. Is there going to be any kind of a material where these guys can have a good sense that, yeah, this is one that is in good shape or this is one I need to be a little suspicious of. At some point I think enforcement of this is going to be problematic. I guess I'll disclose where I intend to vote on this thing. I'm in favor of this. I just think there's a lot of tentacles that are going to come with this that we need to

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flesh out so that we can provide some level of comfort because I know a lot of people, probably some people in this room, will go out of state and harvest a nice deer. And they're going to want to do something with it so either they'd have to get it, establishing some protocols, if you, or some guidance for the hunter that, all right, I go in there. I kill it, maybe I need to go in, and I shoot it in Mississippi. I need to get a pressure washer. You know, some logical things that the everyday hunter can do to make sure he doesn't get himself in a bad position when he brings that animal back into Louisiana would be beneficial to make this work. My other quick questions would be, from a transportation of chronic wasting disease and these prions, is there any other mechanism by which they can come in outside of a live animal or a dead animal into this state? Can some other conduit bring it over? Like if a coyote eats a deer and he brings it over. Can it be transported by those means as well?

Johnathan Bordelon: The prions themselves, the likelihood would obviously come from the methods that you've mentioned. You know, and you talk about shedding those into the environment. It would have to be something that would be loaded up on a trailer and transported.

Commissioner Courville: Okay

Johnathan Bordelon: So, —

Commissioner Courville: So we're not worried, it's this —

Johnathan Bordelon: Right.

Commissioner Courville: It's mainly about moving deer parts.

Johnathan Bordelon: It's about moving deer, live deer or, in this case, deer parts that could potentially be infected.

Commissioner Courville: And then, maybe my second to last, the sites in Arkansas, were those on sort of public private land or were those in captive pens?

Johnathan Bordelon: No, those were actually free ranging deer.

Commissioner Courville: Free ranging —

Johnathan Bordelon: In Arkansas there is no captive industries.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Johnathan Bordelon: So there was deer pen industry or cervid, captive cervid industry in Arkansas.

Commissioner Courville: Same thing in Texas from the sites that tested positive there?

Johnathan Bordelon: Well, Texas was different. Texas was actually captive cervids. So in Texas their positives were actually within pens.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Johnathan Bordelon: The scary part with that is the trace-outs from those pens. Some of those, the one particular positive in 2015, there were more than 19 trace-outs. Basically meaning animals from that infected pen that were moved from that pen to other pens and when you looked at the map the scary part is some of those counties were actually very close to our eastern, I mean, our western boundary or the east Texas boundary. So, that's kind of the worry with that. The fact that's in the

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captive herd in Texas to some degree makes it even scarier, because of the movement of those animals across the state and the slow detectability in that. So, certainly, because it's in the captive cervids in Texas doesn't make it any less fearful that what we're seeing in Arkansas.

Commissioner Courville: And then my very last question, captive pens here in Louisiana, they are allowed to move a captive animal within state boundaries, correct?

Johnathan Bordelon: Within the state but you can't transport deer in or out of Louisiana right now.

Commissioner Courville: And the captive trade operation if you will, is overlooked by Department of Ag and Forestry.

Johnathan Bordelon: LA Department of Ag and Forestry.

Commissioner Courville: And what kind of authority does the department have in that regard and how do we get a sense for how well that captive pen is being, the oversight if you will. We could have a sense for how

Johnathan Bordelon: The Department of Ag, obviously, they are the regulatory agency. We do have some oversight into new permits but the participants that are in the program, they're basically just one on one dealing with the Department of Ag. So we're more or less out of the loop with those guys. Where we are in the loop is within the new permits. They basically have to meet certain provisions and we actually inspect those facilities prior to them being permitted. and that's something that dates back that there was even a lawsuit filed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries against the Department of

Agriculture early on, because of the division or the loss of oversight, but unfortunately you know we weren't successful in that endeavor and right now, Department of Ag is the regulatory agency for the captive cervid industry in Louisiana.

Commissioner Courville: I lied, last question. Is there going to, is there an open exchange currently between the Department of Ag and Forestry and data sharing if you will with Wildlife and Fisheries or is there a bit of a gap? Do we need to bridge that gap?

Johnathan Bordelon: No, we do work with them obviously and it's, you know, it's to our advantage to do so that information obviously is very important and we've attended meetings with them and we do have open dialogue with them. They provide us information upon request, so we do receive information on number of pens, where they're located, all of that information is shared.

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Johnathan Bordelon: But, but we're out of that regulatory loop with the exception of new proposed pens.

Commissioner Courville: Okay. Thanks.

Johnathan Bordelon: Yes sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any other questions? Do we have a motion to –

Audience member: I'm sorry, I didn't fill out a card.

Chairman Yakupzack: But look, let's wait for them to see if the motion is passed please. We have a motion?

Commissioner Courville: Yeah. So Moved

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Commissioner Bill Hogan: Second

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, so, motion to approve the NOI and second. Any public comment. Sir, would you like to come forward? State your name and address please.

Scott Rainey: Thank you very much. My name is Scott Rainey; I live in Lafayette. My question is really about transportation. If I hunt in Texas I have to be able to prove the sex of the deer that I'm transporting through Texas. A tag by itself is not considered adequate proof; I have to have the skull of the deer. If I cannot carry the skull, how do I comply with laws to transport that animal?

Mr. Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you. And that's a very great question. Very valid, something we've even discussed and was brought up our enforcement section. Within that provision there are certain exceptions. One of the exceptions obviously is the clean skull cap. So you can have the head, you can have the skull cap, you can have the antler, you're just not going to be able to possess the brain, the spinal column, the bone tissue. The only bone exception obviously would be the skull itself. So you would be able to possess a clean skull or a clean skull cap or antlers but you will not be able to possess as this proposal has been mentioned in this form, you will not be able to possess the head intact.

Scott Rainey: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: You have a public comment? I'll let you up this time. Next time we need to make sure we fill out cards but, no, come on up. Come on up. State your name and address please. Public participation is always very important. We

appreciate you all coming, we just got to keep some order going.

Steve Leonard: I understand Mr. Chairman. Steve Leonard, Clinton, Louisiana. I killed my first bull elk last year in Colorado. And do it on my own. That's problematic to get the brains out of that thing if I want to mount that animal and I wish, I hope we can think through this is all I ask. Just to think through this thing. There's going to be some issues of getting stuff back into the state. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you for your comment and I think that's what the NOI process is about is to encourage more comment and to fully vet the motion and to see if there could use amendment or further thought. Hearing no further public comment, motion is on the table by Commissioner Courville with a second by Commissioner Hogan to approve this NOI. All in favor?

All: I.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition motion passes. Agenda Item No. 12 to consider a notice of intent to prohibit commercial harvest of blue crabs during the 30-day period for the years 2017 through 2019; and restrict the commercial harvest of immature female blue crabs for the years 2017 through 2019. Presenting is biologist Jeff Marx.

Jeff Marx: Thank you Mr. Chairman and Commissioners for some of your time this morning. I'm here to present you guys with a notice of intent for blue crab seasonal closure and some restrictions on harvest of immature females. Basically the problem our 2016 stock assessments completed earlier this year, the data was through the year 2015 so it's the most recent we can get.

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We were very close to the over fishing benchmark established by the department and we had basically crossed an over fish benchmark. So, just a little visual of what that looks like. The last dot on the right, the top is your fishing mortality. That's how many we are removing, how many fish or crabs in this case are being removed; that's your fish immortality. The red lines on both graphs are limits. That's a place you do not want to cross. The yellow lines are our tags; we're okay with bouncing around those lines. For the fish immortality you can see there in the 90s, there was hovering around that what would be our targets for fish immortality. If you look at the bottom graph that is the exploitable biomass; that's how many individuals are out there. That's the millions of pounds of fish out there. We unfortunately crossed our limit in 2015. The red line, that limit comes from the three lowest years, of biomass that we have seen, and we have seen recovery past that. So it's not panic mode but it is something we are concerned about. We don't want to dip down there too low and then have irreversible effects of any kind. And that's that point right there. That's bad. So the policies that we have in place right now. So, I guess 3 or 4 years ago when dealing with our sustainability, blue crab sustainability, we had a policy in act that said should the fish immortality or exploitable biomass exceed the over fish or over-fishing limits. Okay, well, check box No. 1. LDWF will bring to the Commission a series of management options for the commissioners to review and act upon. So, basically those options are for review are going to include provisions for emergency closures, time-based closures, spatial closures, closure basically. The authority that the Commission has to do this is in 56:6, it says that we have the rules and regulations as long as we go through the administrative procedures act, set seasons,

times, places, size limits, quotas, daily take and possession limits based upon biological and technical data. So, the management actions that we are recommending in this notice of intent; basically there will be a closure of the commercial and trap fishery for 30 days beginning on the third Monday in February. I'll get to that in a second, I'll cover why we went with the third Monday. That when we say commercial harvest that means crab traps, which means trawls, basically no harvest, no commercial harvest of blue crabs for that 30 days. We also said the reason with closure of the trap fishery is so that recreational traps have to be removed from the water as well as commercial traps. The second management option that we are presenting to you is the restriction on immature female harvest. Basically you wouldn't be allowed to harvest an immature female blue crab unless it was for the soft shell production basically. It wouldn't be allowed to be sold in the hard crab fishery. Now both of these actions are for three years 2017, 2018, 2019. It's the sunset basically, the input we got from the crab task force from talking to other folks, was that they would like to see a sunset on these provisions and then we can come back and then evaluate what has or hasn't happened as a result of these actions. So what we will be looking at for the effects of a closure. It's a little hard to say but if we look at the last three years average landings has been around 41 million pounds. A 30-day closure basically is looking at a 3 percent immediate reduction in landings or about 1.2 million pounds. Now, that is not exactly true; it's not like if we don't catch those crabs in that 30 days that we won't catch them after the closure is over with. You will probably have an improved product if the crabs are not harvested at that time they have a chance to grow, get bigger; you'll basically increase the yield per recruit in that thing but they're not unavailable basically is what I'm trying

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to get at. Just because we say we're going to close for 30 days and that 1.2 million pounds harvested is gone basically, it's not really gone. It may be harvested later. But it gives those animals a chance to escape. Now, why we went with the third Monday. It's easier to remember than trying to go with trying to rotate a date around, trying to worry about when Ash Wednesday is, when Lent is, so basically, here's a graph or a table that depicts when Ash Wednesday would be and get how many Lent fishing days there are basically on the right-hand side. You know, in those occurrences in 2017 to 2019 when Ash Wednesday doesn't start 'till March you're really only looking at a couple of weeks in March where you're unable to harvest. 2018, unfortunately it looks like Ash Wednesday's very early, it's on Valentine's Day, February 14 but there are still 17 fishing days within Lent there. Now, of course, within the regulations that we have in place already, the department has the authority through the Commission to close, for a 16-day consecutive period, any time between February 1 and March 31 for derelict crab trap cleanups. And at that point we are actually able to remove traps, during that period, that 16 day period. So what would some effects be from the immature female harvest? Basically it's some of the numbers that we've looked at through our bycatch studies, things like that, is that approximately reduced landings 5 percent, or 2 million pounds; this isn't going to have an effect on busters, peelers that the soft shell industry is still allowed to harvest them just like they are at this point for undersized crabs. You know, if you can have an allowance of that if it's white line or later in the soft shell process. Crabs would still be available. Again, it's not like these immature crabs won't ever become mature female crabs. They will eventually get to maturity. The thing is that we're allowing them a greater chance to get to maturity and

to perhaps get offshore and become a little harder to get and get contribute to our spawning stock of female blue crabs. That's the quick, the dirty there of what you have before you, but, if you have any questions I'd be glad to take them.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions or discussion?

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: If we could, maybe we could hear from the public in advance. I think we have a lot of people who want to comment.

Chairman Yakupzack: I've got three comment cards.

Commissioner Courville: Let's hear from those guys and then give them another opportunity after, if we decide to move forward on that.

Chairman Yakupzack: I'm happy to offer public comment before a motion is made. First card I have here, would like to speak, in person, indicates that they are against the proposal, Mr. Whitney Curole, you want to come forward? Please, state your name and address.

Whitney Curole: Yes, my name is Whitney Curole, 245 Highway 631, Des Allemands, Louisiana. Alright, I'm just against it, man, and the reason I'm against it is I started fishing when I was a kid man, and now I buy crabs, I box crabs, I also have a retail business in Baton Rouge and, closing at 30 days would put a real lick on me. I have, right now I have eight people employed and, I mean, I don't really know, I guess that

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would put us all in the unemployment line, you know. As far as the virgin female crabs, we've caught them our whole life and, you say that's not going to change anything because it's good for the busters, but required, and when you get checked by wildlife and fisheries in the boat, it's got to, there's got to be more busters on the box. And, I mean, you know, to be in reality with the law, you could put 20 boxes in your boat, write busters on them, and they could be legal. I've been stopped many times by Wildlife and Fisheries and they don't actually know what a buster is. So, I mean, you could put 20 crates on the boat that say busters on it and legally still be good with the law that they're proposing. I'm just against it, I'm against closing the season; it would hurt my business out and I'm against taking the female, not taking, closing the female crabs also.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay. Thank you for your comment.

Whitney Curole: Yes sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Next comment card is Mr. George Jackson. Please state your name and address. We're going to take a second during this pause to remind everyone if you wish to speak on any of these remaining items, and please fill out a white card and get it Ms. Wendy over here at the end of the table. Thank you. Mr. Jackson.

Mr. George Jackson: George Jackson, 618 Floresaint, St. Bernard Parish. I'm for getting rid of the maiden crab, but I'm against the closure because I think it's going to hurt the industry; because, they're going to go look somewhere else for product, while its closed, it's going to fall in the Lent season, and, that, and I was for closing it at a different time of the year but I don't think they want it that way. Like right now, the

prices of the crabs is going down. I figured it would have been better for September and October but they don't feel like its better this time of the year. And that's about all I got to say about it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. Jackson. A final comment card, from the representing Louisiana Crab Task Force, Mr. Pete Gerica. Gerica, I'm sorry. You're handwriting's about like mine.

Mr. Pete Gerica: Yes. Yeah, Pete Gerica, New Orleans, Louisiana. I been fishing for my whole life. I'm 63 years old. The task force, you know, we talked about things that we have to do and we all see that there's something has to be done. I mean, you know, when you get to a point where you got so many traps in the water, because that seemed to be the answer to getting more crabs is not producing more crabs but putting more traps in the water and just clean out what you got. So that's why we're in a problem we in right now. So, you know, we had a couple of votes on the thing and it was always like, you know, 7 to 4, and then maybe 2 abstained or 1 abstained. So, I mean, it seems to be we have to start somewhere, this is the best place to start it; we're only going to do it for three years with a sunset. My experience is whenever we had closures that was nature closes, like with Hurricane Katrina and any of the storms, if you laid off of them for a month or so, you always came back with better production. I mean, it's just common sense. If you get another month of growth you're going to make more money because you have more pounds there. So, I appreciate everybody voting' for it.

Commissioner Bobby Samanie: Of course if, Mr. Gerica, were there any other options that y'all looked at while on the crab task force and what were they?

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Pete Gerica: We've been looking' at different things. I mean, you know, everybody'd like to see less traps in the water but we haven't come up with a concrete way of doing that. I mean, you know, how's enforcement do it, how do you, how do you know what, how many traps a man has in the water? We talked to people from Virginia and other places and they really haven't got a handle on, you know, how do you limit the number of traps in the water. We also talked about changing sizes. If you moved up to 5 1/2-inch crab, you'd probably get a lot-better yield, you know? Now some people say it would be bad for the picking houses but I know pickers in Alabama and, you know, throughout the different areas that they have pickers and, you know, they want a better yield. I mean, you know, if they can get a better yield out of the crab, they can get a better price for them, you know? So, you know, we need to do something and there's just so many options we have that we can take at this time. You know, nobody's in favor of limiting people, you know, so if you're not limiting the people, you're not limiting the traps, you've got to limit some time. It's the only way I know how to manage the system.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, thank you.

Pete Gerica: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any other questions? Discussion? Commissioner Sunseri?

Commissioner Al Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move this favorably.

Chairman Bart Yakupzack: Motion to approve the notice of intent as proposed by Mr. Marx?

Commissioner Courville: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: A second by Commissioner Courville. Note that the motion was by Commissioner Sunseri. We held public comment first. Is there any additional public comment? Seeing none, all those in favor?

Commissioner Al Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, if I just may say, I, have difficulty with limiting you know, putting so many years on it. And I understand it, the task, the crab task force went through this. There's a lot of people that, that had opportunities to talk. The vote was, you know, almost, unanimous, and with it being that, that said, I, you know, I just feel that there's been a lot of scrutiny over this situation and, and something needs to be done according to those people within the industry. So, I just wanted to make that clear to the public out here as well as to the commissioners and the department. I got concerns about 3 years. I'd rather see less than that but, this is what they chose to do. So, I'd like to move that favorably. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. The motion is, is, is made and seconded. All those in favor?

All Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion carries.

Mr. Jeff Marx: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda item Number 13, to hear a presentation on information relating to the management of red snapper and related costs. Presenting is assistant secretary Mr. Patrick Banks.

Mr. Patrick Banks: Thank you, thank you

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Mr. Chairman. Appreciate the opportunity. This is the first time I've been able to address the Commission since I was put into this position and I'll tell you, it's been an interesting 5 months. And if I look older, it's because I am. What you guys requested that we provide some information this past Friday on the, the related costs of red snapper management in the gulf. Certainly this has been a big topic of conversation for quite some time; several proposals for regional management for red snapper to be given to the states. Over the years it, it hadn't seemed to make it through either Congress or the Gulf Council so far. And we're still pressing forward with trying to do something for regional management at the council level. And, apparently that has, certainly had the topic back in front of everybody and, and back on everybody's radar. And so I appreciate the off, the opportunity to come and give you some of the, the cost-related information that we feel would be necessary if the authority for red snapper management came to the state and would remove federal funding from that equation. So these costs have to do with, with the state management of that species with no involvement from the federal government whatsoever. So when you manage a species, as y'all well know, it's not just about one piece of the management pie, which is any number of those listed above. We certainly have Fisheries-dependent data that must be collected when we manage a species. And the La Creel program that's in place right now is a fully funded program. It was funded through an act of the legislature a few years ago, to increase the salt water license fees by \$7.50 and that generated all the money we need to run La Creel. Now La Creel is a Fisheries-dependent piece of data that's collected for on our charter for hire as well as our private anglers. That's not how we collect Fisheries-dependent data on commercial catches. So we would have,

that would be another piece of Fisheries-dependent data that we would have to fund. And we do that through the trip ticket program and that's funded through the federal government. Our other piece of information that we would need from a management stand point in order to manage a species, any species including red snapper, would be our Fisheries-independent data. So think about your scientific sampling that it takes. When we go out and sample the, the animals in the, in the nature; determine sizes, determine the reproductive ability of those animals sample different habitats; try to get a biomass estimate basically, the number of fish that're in the water. An, another big part of, of this particular species management that's performed by the federal government, is an understanding of juvenile mortality that's created through our shrimp trawl fishery. So we would have to replace that sampling as well, as part of our in, independent sampling and have to perform shrimp trawl by-catch studies. And that's a big part of, of that Fisheries-independent cost estimate of the \$6 million. Of course all this data comes in. Right now all of that data comes in and is, and is managed by the federal government. We collect some of it for them but we send it to them, they manage it. We would, we would take over management of all of that, and we have an estimate, estimated cost for that in Year 1. Another big thing that the federal government does is, they have a stock assessment team that, that does stock assessments on red snapper, grouper, and all, all different kinds of species. We would have to have a team to do that as well. So it, it takes a team of scientists, you know, a lot of time and effort to work on a stock assessment, a true stock assessment of fin fish. And so we estimate about \$300,000.00 there for the stock assessment team to work on all of this data. And then of course we have some administrative support functions

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that would be required and so we're looking at a biological total of about \$9 million in Year 1, if you add enforcement in there, which was estimated at about a million dollars to enforce out to 200 miles, you're looking at an overall Year 1 cost of about \$10 million. Now certainly in Years 2 through 5, that cost will be lowered. We're, would anticipate only needing to do a stock assessment every 3 to 5 years. We're, we're estimating every 5 years right here as, as the bare minimum. So a large portion of the fisheries-independent data collection would not have to be done in those interim years, but then it would have to be repeated in, in Year 6. So, yeah, this is the Year 1 cost. Just recognize that in Years 2 through 5, it'll be a little-bit less and that's the estimate that we came up with over the last, whatever, 72 hours since you guys instructed us to, to put this information together. And I'll be happy to answer any questions before we move on to the next portion of the presentation.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri?

Chairman Sunseri: You said this is Year 1. What would 2 and 3; have y'all gone that far – to see what that would be?

Mr. Banks: Yeah, year, Year 2 would end, end up being about, well in the biological, now enforcement is the same no matter, no matter what –

Chairman Sunseri: Right.

Mr. Banks: – year it is. But biological total, we would be down in about the \$4 million range on Years 2 through 5.

Chairman Sunseri: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville?

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, in the spirit of what we did on the last agenda item, perhaps we have some people in the public who want –

Chairman Yakupzack: OK.

Commissioner Courville: – to comment on this or are we not there yet?

Chairman Yakupzack: Well, –

Chairman Yakupzack: Yeah, he's not quite done with his presentation.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay.

Commissioner Courville: Well then I have, in, in that regard then, I do have a couple of questions.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay.

Commissioner Courville: how much do the feds spend now on this issue? Do we have a handle on it? Is it 10-point –

Mr. Banks: I, –

Commissioner Courville: – something' million?

Mr. Banks: – I do not

Commissioner Courville: Do you have a sense on what it costs them?

Mr. Banks: No, unfortunately, I don't have an idea of what they spend. They, they send a boat out and they sample all species, of course, and red snapper being one of them. Or they hire us to go out and say, and sample all species, red snapper being one of

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them. So I don't know that they know how much they would spend on just red snapper if they just had to do red snapper. Certainly the bill that's before Congress right now does not have a CBO score; that would be very helpful for us to know what, what they would spend on managing just red snapper but unfortunately we don't have that estimate right now.

Commissioner Courville: Is it, is it safe to assume that in the event this were to come down and, and be our responsibility that the feds are going continue to sample everything else that they're currently sampling though, correct?

Mr. Banks: As I understand from, from speaking with them, they would still send their ships out to go and, and sample way offshore like they're –

Commissioner Courville: They just close –

Mr. Banks: they're doing now.

Commissioner Courville: their eyes when they saw snapper.

Mr. Banks: That's, that's the best guess they can give me.

Mr. Banks: And, and they – and so they would not be able to provide us any of that information.

Commissioner Courville: You mentioned the shrimp trawl by-catch, I assume they're not only looking at snapper during that effort, is, is that, is that a fair assessment?

Mr. Banks: That's right, they're –

Commissioner Courville: So –

Mr. Banks: – they're –

Commissioner Courville: – is it safe to assume they would continue to collect that data?

Mr. Banks: Our hope would be that they would collect that and we could request it.

Commissioner Courville: But under a Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Banks: Right, and say, "Well, we're not going to use it for snapper so that we could still get it" and they wouldn't, they wouldn't be violating the, the, you know, no funds are spent on snapper mandate, you know, and so, you know, but we can't, we can't assume that at this point so that's why that \$6.4 million includes if we had to go out and do that shrimp survey ourselves.

Commissioner Courville: Okay, and then, I think maybe my last question is, do we have a, a, a sense for how much we currently spend, managing snapper out to 9 miles in our current budget?

Mr. Banks: In our current budget we spent – what'd we do for snapper right now is Fisheries dependent data through La Creel and, and that's –

Commissioner Courville: So we're spending about 1.8 million.

Mr. Banks: Well, 1.7 is what we've spent on La Creel in this past fiscal year.

Commissioner Courville: But –

Mr. Banks: So remember that Fisheries dependent is La Creel and, and other Fisheries dependent data collections which brings it up to 1.8.

Commissioner Courville: And we're not doing any data management, I would

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assume the administrative support would be somewhat similar although expanded and then we're obviously enforcing it too, so, but we don't, is that sort of all in there, uh? The, I guess where I'm going with it, Patrick, and you know what it is, is how much incremental money are we sort of considering and maybe we're not there yet, uh –

Mr. Banks: Well, a, a lot of this would be – now I can't speak for enforcement – but a lot of this would be extra work that we would have to do. For example, Fisheries independent data collection, if we can't get that data from the federal government, we have to hire a ship, put our people onboard and we have to go out and take that data, and we have to bring it back and we have to crunch it, we have to analyze it. So, you know, that's, that's new efforts that we would have to put together to go and do that, that work if we had to do a, a, a brand new stock assessment.

Commissioner Courville: okay, but, I mean, anybody can ask anybody for anything these days –

Mr. Banks: Yeah well maybe so –

Commissioner Courville: – unless we've switched our form of government to some other form outside of democracy, it, and it'd be nice to know what, what they spend if we can figure that out at some point.

Mr. Banks: Yeah, that, we, we're hoping to have a, a CBO score of the bill which would help us understand that.

Commissioner Courville: Um –

Chairman Yakupzack: 'Cause –

Commissioner Courville: – and, and just to clarify, you, you sort of, obviously you've been working to develop these numbers, but you mentioned that you had about, you've sort of settled on this in the most, in about 72 hours plus or minus?

Mr. Banks: Right and that, which was a group of about five people working almost around the clock trying to put this all together. Lots of conversations amongst staff, amongst different sections of our Fisheries on how much it costs to go offshore, how much work we do, calls to the feds about what they do, how they do it, what we would have to replace, things like that, so it was a –

Commissioner Courville: Okay.

Mr. Banks: – it was a –

Commissioner Courville: Okay, thanks.

Mr. Banks: – a large effort.

Commissioner Courville: That's all I have for now.

Chairman Yakupzack: Yeah and I'll, I know you – got a thick packet here and you got plenty of present, presenting to do, you got more to talk about but just since that's come up now three times about the 72 hours, I think it's important to recognize for this commission that the questions about related costs started on the, the 21st when the Commission, the Commission, no, I began receiving calls from commissioners on that day and so thank you very much for working very hard over the last 72 hours to prepare this for presentation, but we, we, we've, this has all been a topic for now nearly 3 weeks and, and to, to receive the agenda on Thursday and for it not to have a presentation of any sort about this was a

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little surprising and I got call after call from, from these guys saying we weren't going to hear about this and so that's why at their request the agenda it was add, was, item was added. So, I certainly appreciate your hard work and sorry that your, your holiday was, was compromised but I do want to, did want to recognize that point.

Mr. Banks: Well I, I'll tell you, my holiday was not compromised, thank goodness, but you're, you're right, we, we have been talking about calls for several weeks now and we were able to put together a rough cost estimate several weeks ago but this, to present it to you guys, we knew we had to have every bit of meat on the bone that we could possibly get at this time and, and that's the difference between the general cost back-of-the-napkin type effort we did a few weeks ago and this one and, you know, knew that y'all would have a lot more questions at this point.

Secretary Melancon: Yeah, and, and if I might, um –

Chairman Yakupzack: Secretary.

Secretary Melancon: – back on the 20th we had put some rough cost estimates but everyone kept challenging our cost estimates, so we finally after asking the, finance and management group to try to give us numbers, they kept trying to figure out where they were coded, where they came from, what the actual numbers were, we came to the conclusion that we weren't really going to have solid numbers to give you or didn't really have, other than "we think this is what it is", so it wasn't that it just got put together in 72 hours ago, it was, because we didn't want to come here and have questioned the numbers that we had, we wanted to try and give you something

that we thought we could basically put out solid and say "here's the numbers", so.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you.

Mr. McClinton: Chairman, commissioners, Bryan McClinton, Undersecretary Wildlife and Fisheries, I was asked part of this presentation to kinda give a, a fiscal update on, as part of this, on the cost and how it impacted the department. A couple of you have, have, we've discussed this in the past so this is not going to be new information to everybody but I'm talking about the conservation fund. The conservation fund is the largest funding source at 63 percent of kinda the department's expenditures, it's what can be expended that, that doesn't have a statutory dedicated or a federal nexus on it to where it, it has to be spent on certain things so that's the majority of enforcement, the majority if anything doesn't fit within something else, so it, the, the assumption is without, the federal dollars, that's where the brunt of it the additional costs that would come in would, would impact the conservation fund – and I'm trying to see how I get this thing to scroll, sorry. This is a very brief projection of the conservation fund. You'll see 15/16 still projected; that's, because we're still receiving invoices and some of those are grant related, we'll draw that federal dollars down so revenues may go up, expenditures may go up, that's kinda where we're at right now. You can see as we project out, I'm currently projecting and - , when you see your presentation to me for the new commissioners, always do this as well, at 20-21, we look like we're going to be needing general fund to exist which is a 4-year, 4-year out projection. So, and the question, also I'd like to know, I'm on this page at bottom, is reductions that have occurred, usually mid-year budget reductions, because the state's at a deficit and they're allowed to take 5 percent of our

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statutory dedicated funding so that's what some of those reductions are at the bottom. You can see, I'm not projecting any of that but I'm going to address it a little bit later. The, this is the conservation revenue. The top line is total department, the total revenue within the conservation fund. That secondary line that's right below it that has a very similar shape is our mineral revenue. The third line down is recreational hunting and fishing licenses. The bottom two lines are commercial and fishing licenses. The majority, please note the majority of that funding goes to commercial, to commercial interested, statutory dedications, that's why there's not a huge amount that goes to the conservation fund and the other is boat registration and other permits and things that are sold. The reason I wanted to show you this to show how dependent we are on a mineral revenue and one of the reasons that we're currently in the situation we're in, that you say "well I haven't heard about this", prior to that is the \$35 million cut we've taken from last year, year-end and, again, I know we're still projected but we're pretty close to where we're going to be revenue-wise this year, it's about a \$35 million less in revenue on mineral, mineral royalties that are generated on a WMA. you couple that with these are the, the reductions that we've had from the last 8 years, these are mid-year budget reductions or fund sweeps or us purchasing different things and we've, that we've been, through different, either acts or, or executive orders, if they've given up about \$15 million in conservation fund. there's also some other obligations for the past several years we've been funding the **** libation program at DNR, we've been giving the mineral board at DNR to collect our mineral revenues; we've never done that in the past but twice we now, we've, we've supported them, you can see that's a little over \$2 million and then we've had our, a lot of our functions in Office of Management

Finance has been consolidated first at DNR and then the division administration, that's \$7 million. If we had that in-house we would still have to pay for those functions, I'm not trying to make this look, you know, inflated that's another \$7 million but there is some cost savings because we do pay a premium we do pay an overhead which we wouldn't have if they were in-house but I just wanted to say that does add to why we're currently in the \$3 million deficit, the for 20-21. And this last slide is some, some release mineral revenue that we've, that's been collected on our behalf that we did not receive, the state hasn't given us. We, we've argued it with the entities that are involved and we've gotten some payment back but there's still 6½ million and we've been told that it's unlikely that we receive that money so I just kinda wanted to show you that, you know, the department, when we had money, we've been looked to and required to help out other agencies, help out through executive orders and things, and we, and I don't begrudge doing it but projections, I guess, my wrap up, I got a \$3 million deficit in 20-21, I got a \$35 million increase, decrease in mineral revenues from the prior year, we got additional costs. I do not have that consolidated functions in that 24 million because I didn't think that was fair, and, but we do have concerns, because the currently the state's budget's not real healthy, K through 12 is not funded, you know, some of the hospitals aren't funded. I'm anticipating us to have to go through another mid-year reduction, they come and take another 5 percent, so I just wanted to kinda give you all an update for those who haven't seen it, on kinda where we are financially. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you.

Secretary Melancon: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, let me start by

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saying that. Since I've been at the agency, I have said and I continue to say, that with regards to red snapper, my goal was to provide a larger Creel limit and more days of fishing and that still is my goal and that still what I have told the, the staff and the biologists for this agency that we want to do. If you, the man, the federal government as people say, is not managing the fisheries, the Gulf Council manages the fisheries. The Gulf Council is made up of 17 people; one is a federal official, the rest are five state directors, representatives of the commercial, recreational sport fishing and charter fishing sectors. Those 16 people are the Gulf Council. The proposal to establish a new bureaucracy to replace the Gulf Council would be additional revenue, because the feds are not going to fund it and I'll talk to that in a few minutes. The problem is that we've got citizens and stakeholders that are involved that some want it their way or no way and they can't seem to come to the realization that you got to give some. The Gulf Council saved the red snapper. Does that sound like an organization that can't do something when it wants to do it?

The red snapper, it was at about 3 percent estimated left in the Gulf of Mexico. It is now up to about 65 percent. In the last 4 years the quotas or the allotments have doubled for the different groups. Now, Magnuson Stevenson was put in law for a reason, because people were fighting over the fish rather than discussing how to make sure that we conserve the fish. We as an agency, the Council, NOAA, Magnuson Stevens, is all about conservation and it may not be that we're happy with the number of fish we're getting right now, and we're not, particular when you go offshore in Louisiana and you see the quantity of fish that are out there. When you go offshore in Florida and Alabama, not so, but they've got the fishermen. So, to set up a Gulf Council

or a new entity still doesn't solve the problem of how you going to share the fish, it's still problematic and it's going to be problematic. If you divide it to the east and the west and you do the new proposal, there's going to be five guys running this whole thing; no public input like you allow, no stakeholders' input, it's not provided for. Five guys. So let's say Texas and Louisiana decide that we're going have our Fisheries and do whatever we want to do from the Mississippi River or from the Mississippi line going west. There's three votes on the other side that may decide they don't want to let us do that without public input, without stakeholder input, without any kind of input. So from the standpoint of are we being regulated by the feds, no, we are the Gulf Council. The five states run the Gulf Council, make the decisions, cast the votes and for some reason we can't seem to get where we want to go even though and one of the things, and I think you're going to cover some more viable about what we've done, yeah, what we've done, let me speak to, and let me go straight to my notes so I can make sure that I'm not misquoted, because there was an article that said - was written that said that Charlie Melancon was against state management of the Fisheries and that is a lie, I mean it's just blatantly not correct. I felt that the resolution passed by the Commission in April obligated this department to pursue one of several options, only one of several options, related to a very complex and contentious issue. The resolution passed essentially prohibited myself or any of the Fisheries' management and biologists within this department from exploring all options to accomplish the goal of providing recreational anglers longer seasons and increased daily bag limits. Nevertheless, and putting aside the questions of with whom the authority lies to make decisions related to federal Fisheries' management, I respected this Commission's

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wishes and followed their direction. On numerous occasions I was requested to express concerns in opposition to Congressman's Graves' bill, HR 3094 and I didn't, I stayed quiet. Congressman Graves himself stated during congressional mark up on HR 3094 that this bill is endorsed by all of the Gulf states and if in fact this department or I would have opposed it, Congressman Graves would certainly not have knowingly provided false information to the committee. Two days before that vote, I received a call from a former senator that's a friend of mine who lobbies for and we didn't even get into the question who she lobbies for, but she asked what was the position of the department and I said that a position, as far as I knew, was to support the Graves bill and asked me if I was going to do anything and my comment was "no, one way or another for or against, my hands were tied, stay at home, don't get involved." That was basically as I interpreted the resolution. Chairman Bishop, however, during the congressional markup, Chairman Bishop authored and passed an amendment. That amendment was basically to gut the bill. It's a poison pill amendment. It's how chairmen that don't want something to come out will kill a bill by letting you get a bill passed out of the committee. His quote, "This removes any of the federal funding from the authority, one of the things I think significant." Then ranking member Grahada just to ratify it, and if you look, if you go to the web site, you can see this committee in action, and Representative Grahada, who's the ranking member says, "This amendment makes sure the states get all the responsibility but none of the federal funding, the very definition of an unfunded mandate." That was in the committee hearing. You can see that online anytime. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission resolution should, said "Gulf States red snapper management authority should prove

to, to not be viable, then the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will work diligently in conjunction with Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department toward a resolution for successful management of the resources for the betterment of the Fisheries. Without any federal funding associated with this mandate, along with the proposed role of the U.S. Secretary of Com, Commerce, without the new authority that would be established" – and by the way, it's a new, it's a whole new administration bureaucracy which I think most people that I know are against establishing more government, but it basically provides that there would, that U.S. Secretary of Commerce which includes NOAA, includes the Council, includes any government money would not be allowed to use the federal funding to provide to any of the states or entities of the state in the management of the red snapper. so that's where, and I'll get to how I came about making this statement actually it was about 5 days after the committee, I'd still not ever said anything and found it kinda strange that a press person from Louisiana hadn't called to say what I thought but I did get a question from a reporter out of Texas. We were on the road, we were over at the Gulf going to the Gulf Council and this reporter, we asked him to put his question in writing so the question we received is "If asked by legislators whether Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries would favor the Garrett Graves Bill to allow for state snapper management but without federal funding how would the department respond if asked by state legislators?" My answer: "HR 3094 would transfer to the Gulf states the management authority and responsibility" – and this is after it's passed with the killer amendment – "to the states, the management authority and responsibility for scientific data collection for the red snapper resource in state and federal waters off their respective coast.

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However HR 3094 as recently amended by Congressman Bishop would not transfer any federal funding to the states to conduct necessary stock assessment, research data collection or enforcement. Without federal funding Louisiana could potentially lack the proper resources to manage the red snapper fishery. HR 3094 would not be a viable option for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. It would be fiscally irresponsible for the department to support any mandate that would result in the unknown amount of fish, of fiscal burden placed on the State of Louisiana for the management of a single species of fish. As a department we are charged with managing our Fisheries, our fishery resources for optimum yield and the same applies to our fiscal resources. The department is committed to re, responsibly managing our fishery resources, and we understand some of our user groups are frustrated with the current federal management of red snapper under the authority of NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. We remain committed to working with NOAA Fisheries, the Council and its members and all interested stakeholders to ensure optimum utilization of the fair and equitable access to the red snapper resources. The department's, department's goal is to, to begin a collaborative dialogue with our state and federal partners to find a durable solution to these issues concerning management of the red snapper resources of, for the public good" and that was my quote. Never a word about state management where this thing got all blown out of proportion. Now, the reality, you've seen the numbers. We're facing a half a billion dollar deficit this fiscal year. There are people, old people, young people, that can't get medical treatment at the hospitals, because we've cut, had to cut the budget. K through 12 has been cut drastically. The

university's got a few dollars back, but that won't even give them 1 percent of what they needed to get back. We as an agency since the day I got here have been looking at every contract, we have proposed through the process that we need to, the legislature, to reorganize this department. We found that we have a whole lot more chiefs than we had Indians, and that's not supposed to happen. There is guidelines of how you structure your organizations. So we, I think in the first 2½ months we found somewhere in the neighborhood of I think 2½ or \$3 million of much of contracts that we could go to and get out of, and basically I said we will stay with those that are needs and meet the core mission of this agency and those that we, or wants, let's go and ask, see if we can get outa those things. And we've done some of that, and there's more to be done. As you know we have been going through an audit. Consumption of time has been spent more in responding to those audit requests, than I would've liked and would've liked to have a whole lot more time in actual policy, politics, in terms of trying to make sure that we had a smoother ride on things, with, with the commission, with the stakeholders that are out there. One of the things that I said when I got here, in the first couple of weeks, was that when I saw what was going on with the red snapper fisheries that it would behoove us to try and put all the stakeholders into a room as they do at the Gulf Council and see if we can hammer out at least in one state the differences that exist. And if that's the case, then maybe we can meld that in and get other states to sit down and do the same thing to where we can get this resolved. What I see for Mr. Graves' bill, and I served in Congress and I know what the actions are and I can tell you when a committee chairman puts a bill that takes the funding out of the bill, it is a killer amendment. It is not intended to be a friendly amendment, although I can tell

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you and I've been in position where the chairman says either you can bring the bill and you get it passed but I'm going put a killer amendment, whatever it's going to be, and you have that gentlemen's agreement, if you feel that you've still have to move the bill. So what I saw on that day is I believe what transpired, but the fact is if you look at the legislation, in Section 505 Prohibition on Federal Funding, no federal funding shall be appropriated or used for the GRSMA or its members to carry out management actions of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, period, end of sentence, next section starts. Happy to answer questions, my staff is happy to answer questions. I have never been in a position where I'm against anything. I have always tried to find resolve to an issue, and as I tell people that's the blue dog in me. That's the Billy Tauzins, the John Breauxs, the people we all know, about trying to sit down and find resolution. Some people may not want resolution, and for that I can't do anything. But as in a person that has served in public office, that is now here at the department, trying to use what skills and what, the errors I made in the past to try and make sure that I do a better job in the future. It's all about trying to find a resolve to an issue that has been festering for too long. But people have to talk and people have to give, and one of the things that I have learned, I learned it in a marriage. I'll be 44 years this month. If you don't give in somewhere and, and give some, then it won't work. Business deals are the same way, mitigation in lawsuits are the same way. Sometimes you have to give some to get some. So when everybody gets up from the table, if nobody is truly happy with what they've done, the chances are it's a good deal. If one side gets up happy and the other side gets up mad, then you can bet somebody came out on the short end. Now, back to where we started. Do I want and does this department want more fish in the

Creel and more days to fish? The answer is absolutely emphatically yes, and it has been since the day I got here. So all the accusations, all the running around, is about one article that was written that if you look at the headlines and then you look at the first paragraph you would believe that I said that I'm not for state management. I'm for state rights, always have been. I've also always been against mandated, unfunded mandates as a public official. Voting record, you can check it if you like. That's the person I am, but I'm all about trying to find resolve. So with that, I'm happy to answer any questions, my staff is happy to answer any questions. They know, and I've told them since the day I arrived here, this is about making things better and not about stirring controversy, and I'm sorry that some people misinterpret the fact that the fiscal irresponsible thing is the easy way out. To say that the state can't afford millions and millions of dollars, this agency included, is not I mean, that's, it is what it is. So I put that before you. If we were flushed with money we could maybe find it, but if I've have to go find money within this department, because I doubt very seriously the legislature's going to be giving me any money. But if I got to go find money then who do I take it from, the shrimpers, the crabbers? How 'bout the duck people and the deer people? I'm going to have to rob a pot somewhere to get the money. And so I want to try and make this agency solid for as long as I'm here and further into the future after I'm gone, and that's basically what I'm going to try and do. So I thank you for the opportunity to visit with you and, be happy to answer any questions, me or the staff. I think Patrick has a little bit more information. Starting the Monday at the Gulf Council when I felt like the bill was unviable, I sat down with Patrick and Myron and we started talking about what can we do now, because I felt like I was, I had the

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ability to have conversations finally about do we have any options. So we wanted to try and start back up the conversations in the Gulf Council about a recreation fishing, whether it's regional, whether it's state, any options to put on the table to try and solve the problem. And we had discussions about trying to increase the limit, we may have to shrink the day, because of the quota, but increase the limit so those boats that are going offshore they can maybe get more fish, and Patrick will talk to that because that was a conversation I felt that the scientists need to have and it wasn't just for a layperson like myself to be involved. Questions, or would y'all like to let Patrick finish up?

Chairman Yakupzack: Let's hear from Patrick.

Secretary Melancon: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Courville: Thank you.

Audience: Applause

Mr. Banks: I don't have any more of a presentation. We all prepared to present some information about the state red snapper season to you all, and it would give you an idea of how many fish have been harvested so far, how many, how much longer we think we can leave that open, maybe is there some opportunity in the future possibly to request an increase in bag limit, things of that sort. I would recommend that you allow us to give that presentation so that you know where we stand in terms of the season and how many fish have been caught, and then we can get into more in-depth questions, but I'll follow your lead.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chair –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville?

Commissioner Courville: I was thinking you were going to talk about something else. So if you would oblige me, I've got a couple of questions and I appreciate the clarification by Secretary Melancon, so I'll direct this at whoever wants to take a stab at it. I thought you were going to talk about the amendment that was moved forward at the Gulf Council meeting and –

Mr. Banks: I can if you would like.

Commissioner Courville: Yeah. I read it and I'd like somebody to explain to me what I just read.

Mr. Banks: Yeah. Well, it's a little bit difficult to explain, because it was a lengthy debate.

Commissioner Sunseri: Wait.

Mr. Banks: Sorry.

Commissioner Sunseri: I need to hear the amendment.

Commissioner Courville: Okay. You have it?

Mr. Banks: I don't have it in front of me.

Commissioner Courville: Should I just read the little excerpt I have? "Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council motion introduced by council member Patrick Banks on behalf of the State of Louisiana June 23rd, 2016. Motion to direct staff to create a new amendment for management of red snapper for the private recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico considering all options including regional management with input from the ad hoc private recreational

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advisory panel. Motion carried by a vote of 9 to 6 with one abstention.” What does that mean?

Mr. Banks: Well, I'll do my best to explain it. As Secretary Melancon indicated when the funding issue became a concern we got together and said how can we do what the Commission ask us to do if we don't believe this is the red snapper authority is going to be viable. So how can we still move down that road and try to do what the Commission wanted us to do? And at that point we felt like there was no way we could bring back full regional management in front of the council. That which clearly didn't work before. So we said well, why we don't try to start looking at just the private recreational anglers and see if we can get a regional management approach or some sort of a framework for that type of management through the council as a starting point to try to do what you guys wanted us to do. So my thought was well, the commercial side of the council has always been very skeptical of us, so I need to do what I need to do with them to try to convince them that we're not trying to pull anything over on them. So I talked to each of them, talked to them about what we're trying to do, what we're hoping to do, that we were not trying to change the management process for the commercial sector. We were not trying to change the management process for the charter for hire sector. This was strictly for recreational private angling only. And after a lot of conversations we got a lot of support. Unfortunately, we didn't get the support of the recreational members or three of the other four Gulf state directors. But that amendment, the original motion, was to develop a new amendment to develop regional management for the private recreational angling community. That was the original motion. A lot of discussion took place at the council. One of the other state

directors was concerned about the context of regional management, I can't remember all what she said, but I offered to change the wording of the motion, and then another comment maybe from another director, I can't remember, wanted to make sure that we waited until we got input from this ad hoc, private recreational advisory panel that was being put together. I said fine, we want input from everybody, you know? Certainly input is not bad. And I welcome from that group, from any group. So that's how the motion got changed up and got somewhat confusing in the end, but the gist of the motion is to try to get an amendment started through the council to develop a regional management plan or some other management framework for the private recreational community.

Commissioner Courville: Okay. So based on that, what gives us any sense that all of a sudden they've developed an interest in doing this when it doesn't appear, and granted I'm reasonably new coming into this deal, but they've had a lot of interest in that in the past. Why all of a sudden, why the change –

Mr. Banks: Yeah.

Chairman Courville: – of heart? That's -.

Mr. Banks: It's a valid question and I'm, and I'm new to the process as well and, and the other state directors told me I was being naïve. But all I heard at the council for the two meetings that I've been there is this council can do nothing, we can get nothing accomplished here. Everybody seemed frustrated, but yet nobody wants to stand up and actually do anything. This I felt moved us down the road. I mean, how, how can we, if we're just going to sit there and not take a step forward, because we don't believe that we can walk, well, then we will

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never try. And so, so I felt like that we got a lot of support for trying to move this down the road. Unfortunately, and it was somewhat surprising to me that the recreational community did not support it. They, they, they wanted us to go about it a different way, and that's something that we're going to talk to you about in a minute you know, the season and trying to increase bag limits But, but we got a lot of support at the council. I mean, it said 9 to 6, it was actually a 10 to 6 vote. I mean, that's, that's unheard of from what I've been told at the council. Everything that's controversial is 9 to 8. You know, it either passes unanimously or it's 9 to 8. The fact that we got ten votes to push this forward, people are telling me that we've got a new, a new feeling at the council that Louisiana's work, is working again with the feds, working again with the majority of the council, and it, it just feels like to me we can make some progress. Now, this new amendment may, may come through the council and it may be something that we can't, we can't support in the end, and that's very possible. I think that's what happened to Amendment 39. I think the previous administration moved that forward and it was a very good amendment to start with, but in the end it just got to a, a spot that they just couldn't support in the end and they, they voted along with other state directors to table it or postpone it indefinitely or whatever, and that may happen in this amendment. And you're, you're right, Commissioner, we, we may be in the same spot, but to say we're not going to try ever again I just don't, I don't, I don't see how we can do for you guys what, what we're asked to do and push forward with regional management if we just sit on our hands. So, you know, if that's not the way y'all want us to do I, I'll gladly, you know, take your all's lead and Secretary Melancon's lead, but I feel like that we just

had to do something and we got a lot of strong support.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, you know, I'm a solutions-type person and you know, you know this Patrick, a lot of people, you know, in the audience know me as well. And it's, you try to come together so that you can meet a happy medium and no one ever gets what they want but you have to come to a solution. If you don't, you always have this back and forth, back and forth, and that is not going, that is not a successful way to own any show. I mean, I'm a businessman and there's a lot of hard decisions I've had to make as a businessman, especially over these last 6 years since the deep water horizon disaster, and a lot of them were good, they're fun, but you know, it was what needed to be done to be able to make it work. So I'm hopeful no matter what goes on that we look at this in a solution manner trying to, to fix whatever's wrong. I don't know what's wrong, you know, but I'm looking forward to learning what, what the issues are on, on this, and hopefully we can, you know, reach some kinda solution to whatever management issues we got. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, I'm Commissioner Courville. I have a follow-up question, and it may be better directed at Secretary Melancon, but I'll let whoever wants to dive into it give it a shot. Based on, on the secretary's comments earlier, do we have more faith that the resolution to this issue lies in the Gulf Council or in state-based management?

Secretary Melancon: Well, what we put into the amendment – an amendment is basically

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a bill in the council lingo – what we've put in there is that we put all options on the table and have the open discussion. If it's state management, if it's regional management, if it's gulf-wide management. I still have a problem trying to, to figure out, and I think I've told you this before, we've got biomass in Louisiana. They don't have the biomass over in Florida and Alabama but they damn well have more fishermen than we'll ever have. So the problem is how you get the fish from the bi, in the biomass state to the fish in the fishermen's state. It doesn't change it no matter where you're trying to make the deal. You still have the same problem. But to take it and put it in a bureaucracy that's got five people who are not elected. Appointed. That would be one would be me. Do you want to entrust five people that you don't know with no public input, no stakeholder input to make decisions on the life of the fish that we want to preserve and conserve for not just, you know, this generation but others?

Look, I remember when we went to three-duck limit and I know that, that, that the hunter right there, Mr. Courville, understands ducks. There was some very angry people in this state, but you know at the time, Ducks Unlimited had a lot, had biologist and scientists and our state agency biologists and scientists and U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists and scientists says you need to do it. It has to be done if we're going to conserve. If we're going to make sure that there's going be ducks for the future. So everybody pulled together and did it. Now right now, and I'm not going to get into the biology, but there's a whole lot more fish probably being thrown back into the, into the gulf rather than taken in, because their bladder has come out that can be brought home or should be brought home and the council should address those culled fish and should try and find some ways to

find a solution to it. It's a matter of having the guts to sit down and have an honest conversation about it. What I found about the council and I tried to get a person appointed to that at-large seat. I was unsuccessful. I thought I had a good shot at it. But as I told the people with NOAA and the people with the Department of Commerce, when I talked with them about giving Louisiana that, that at-large seat, that I found that's what happening at the council is that you've got round pegs, square pegs and triangle pegs. If you ever had a peg board, you know what I'm talking about. And what happens is as soon as it gets controversial, every peg goes to their appropriate holes and sit there and they don't do a thing. Which means they lock up. But it's not the feds. It's the people from the five states. They partner up, they lock up and make deals. I don't know. One thing that I told the guys that sit for Louisiana when they asked what I wanted them to do, I've told them all. I want you to do the right thing. We are the people that are responsible for the conservation of this species and every other species. And what you need to do is make sure that whatever we're doing is for the best interest of the species so that we will have the enjoyment and pleasure of them into the future, so our children and our grandchildren have them. We may have to pay the price in the short term by being limited by what we can catch. And I know that's frustrating. But there's been things that've been established in law, in the council, by rule, been through the court cases, have been fought out. The rec sector is the only sector, the rec to private sector is the only sector that hasn't resolved its problem. The commercial has an allotment. They know how they can fish, when they can fish, where they can fish. The charter people the same thing. Like it or not, they've got it. It's done. So do we start dismantling legs that are working

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already to fix one that isn't working yet?
No. We got to be able to figure it out. And remember, in 4 – what is it – 4 years, I think we've doubled the quota that's been allowed for the Fisheries, for the entire Fisheries of red snapper. I think our bigger issues are going to be about who, how you get those fish from where they are in Louisiana to other places.

Mr. Banks: Commissioner Courville, I'll, I'll try to answer as best I can your question. Do I believe the, the congressional act is –

Commissioner Courville: That's my question.

Mr. Banks: – State's management or do I think the council's - the answers. I don't know which one. But, and that's why I think it's critical that we, we operate with as many options on the table as we can. You know I don't know a lot about politics. Thank goodness Secretary Melancon does. But, but when I hear things about Congress and, and the difficulty of getting a bill through and certainly in an election year, I, I look at that and say we need to be, we need to be working another option, you know, as best we can. And it doesn't mean that we're, we don't think that's a good option. That's a good road that'll get us, get us to the finish line. This is a road that we need to explore to see if it gets to the finish line and whatever other option we can come up with at this point. And so, that's the short is I don't know which one is the best option but I feel like, because of that, we have to explore them all.

Commissioner Courville: Well, then let me rephrase my question. Do we have a sense that we are exploring them all, because I, you know, in, in my judgment, you know, I've seen your budget and I appreciate as, as Bart mentioned, Commissioner Yakupzack

mentioned, I, there's, that, that big Fisheries' independent data thing that's out there that we think might or might not be done, that changes the game a lot. That's a big component to this, this budget, and without knowing if we can get that I think I agree. All options are on the table. Me, personally, I sure would love to hear and I intend to attend a gulf council meeting to find out if we can get a sense that these guys have had a change of heart. However, call me cynical, call me whatever you want it, I – let me back up. So is it fair to say, based on, on the comments heard here today, that we're putting a little bit more faith in the gulf council route than, any other route? Is that, is that a fair statement?

Mr. Banks: I don't think that's a fair statement. I don't know how much faith to put into either one of them, Commissioner Courville. The thing is to sit back, we just felt like, we were sitting at the council a couple weeks ago and to sit back and put all our faith in, in one route when it looks sort of bad, we felt like we needed to start forging another route. And, so that we had that option on the table as well. And if, and if the congressional instrument makes it, then we're set. We can, we can withdraw that amendment from the gulf council and, we won't need to do anything, thing else. But, you know, I don't have a good sense of which one is, is preferred.

Commissioner Courville: Sure.

Mr. Banks: I will say that the gulf council has been in operation for a long time. And it's done good work. Now, yeah, it's not perfect, just like anybody's not perfect. And we may disagree with how many days we get and I'm not happy with that either. But the fact is, that council, the man, the management scheme that it's utilized, has brought a fish back from the brink.

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Commissioner Courville: Sure. Absolutely.

Mr. Banks: So know, so we may not like the access that we're getting but, but it's, it's, it's done its job. It has managed that species and conserved that species. Now we need to fight to get greater access to it.

Commissioner Courville: Let me, let me back up one time and I hate to bogart the floor here but this, this may be my, the declining part of questions, do we have a sense of what the other four states, that we were at one time sort of partners with, if you will, do we know their positions on this same bill and theoretical unfunded mandate?

Mr. Banks: I don't know their position on the unfunded mandate. I know that they were, like we were, in support of the bill or in support of state management. I don't know that they put out a statement about the bill itself. And they're certainly in favor of state-based or regional management. They voted against my motion. All but one voted against my motion at the council. They were concerned about the timing. They were, Texas, was concerned that it didn't include the charter-for-hire industry, that that's the only way they could support it is, is if, if we brought in the charter-for-hire industry into the motion. And, so there were, there were various reasons. But they all spoke eloquently in front of the council about the need for regional management. So I think we're all in the same page there. They just, they spoke about the need for regional management and they support regional management but they couldn't support my motion. And Florida abstained, so anyway.

Commissioner Courville: Okay. I'll take a breath and let somebody else chime in if they care to.

Chairman Yakupzack: And I, I'd like to follow up since you just made a comment about it, the Texas position, with regard to your amendment about where Texas would support it if the charter-for-hire were included in your amendment. What's the department's position on that?

Mr. Banks: Well, my feeling is right now, Mr. Chairman, is that certainly charter-for-hire traditionally and private angling is all one recreational sector, and that was the way I think Amendment 39 started out, but then when that sector, separation occurred, you know, pulled the charter out from there, from the private angling, that, that issue was controversial. But it, it has stuck. It has been challenged in court and it has stuck, so the feeling I have is, is yes, traditionally it is part of the recreational sector, but we've got a charter-for-hire sector that's working through the council process, building their framework for management; they're not quite sure about it yet, but they wanted some more time to continue to explore it. I felt like it was fair to give them more time, so I didn't feel like it was fair to try to pull them into this, while they're working on their management framework, at least, at least the folks that are there and talked to us seem to be happy with it, and they want to try to see if that framework works. Now if we, if we do something with the private angling community that works, and is really, really good, I think it would be easy for that group to come back, you know? But to dismantle the commercial side and, and the charter-for-hire that seem to be working, just to get this done, I well it wouldn't have made it. It wouldn't have even passed the council had I included that, so, so I didn't, I didn't feel like it was a, it was a motion that could make it, if I accepted what Texas asked me to do.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, will you put back up your chart, please, with your costs, for a second? And, and again, I'm just, I'm following up on what Commissioner Courville asked because I know I will receive calls on it and, and as Chairman, I've been very careful with that. I've received a bunch of calls in the last 15 days, and I've, I've deferred. I've not given public comments and I think that that's my place as Chairman, but being that it's an open Commission meeting, I, the, Courville's, Commissioner Courville pointed out the \$6 million number that is, is, sort of, grows that number tremendously there, because we all recognize that the 1.8 is already here and, so what I'm interested in clarification on is the Fisheries' independent number of \$6 million and the enforcement number of \$1 million. Can you itemize the Fisheries' independent number?

Mr. Banks: Sure, sure. So to do the necessary Fisheries' independent sampling for reef fish, there's several different types of sampling that occurs within that management program. You have to take ground fish samples. You have to bottom long-line samples. You have to do vertical-line samples. You have to do plankton samples. And then you have to, to estimate the shrimp by-catch, shrimp effort, to determine your by-catch mortality on the juveniles. So those are your, your main components within Fisheries independent. So ground fish is about \$650,000.00. Bottom long-line, is about \$532,000.00. Vertical line is about \$460,000.00. Plankton is about \$550,000.00. The shrimp effort can range, but it can range anywhere from a couple million to \$4 million, depending on the level of sampling you have to do. And so, so if you remove that \$4 million, then you're down to, to, to \$2½ million for that first year. But, and we can, and we can remove that and, and in years 2 through 5,

but we really have to get that number. That's a, the shrimp effort survey determines the juvenile mortality within the stock assessment model that you use. And it's a huge driver of that model. It's a critical piece of information, as I'm told, of the model for the stock assessment of, of re-fish, and so to remove that piece of data from the model, almost makes the model useless. So it, it's a critical piece of information that we have to get. It's also the most expensive, from what I understand, our biologists talking to the NOAA biologists; it's the most expensive part of their survey. Likewise, it, it would be the most expensive part of ours.

Chairman Yakupzack: And so that, with regard to the shrimp surveys, the \$2 to \$4 million, that's just for off the coast of Louisiana?

Mr. Banks: That's right.

Chairman Yakupzack: The, um –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville?

Commissioner Courville: In the middle of that, and so, kind of follow-up to my earlier question, how much of that, do we, of the ones you just listed, do we anticipate that the feds will have to do anyway, in the event you were to transfer snapper management to the state? Is it just the shrimp by-catch or is it all the plankton sample, the vertical long-line and the other things that you mentioned?

Mr. Banks: Well, I would anticipate they would still have to do all of this sampling, okay? It's just a matter of they wouldn't be able to put any kind of federal funds towards this, this effort, so as we appreciate it, in talking to, to them, they wouldn't be able to share the information with us. They

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wouldn't be able to provide the information to us, as we appreciate.

Commissioner Courville: They, they told you that, we cannot share this information?

Mr. Banks: No, they didn't say we cannot. They just said as we appreciate the –

Commissioner Courville: They're not going to.

Mr. Banks: – the directive of the legislation is that we would not be able to provide that information to you. So we have to assume that we would have to go out and replicate all of this.

Commissioner Courville: Wow. Okay.

Mr. Banks: So, that's how we arrived at these numbers.

Chairman Yakupzack: No, that's okay and this, the follow-up to that question is, is, is we all appreciate it and I think you've said earlier that the NOAA currently does a stock assessment for the entire gulf?

Mr. Banks: That's right.

Chairman Yakupzack: – on red snapper, and it, as I appreciated it, this department has a contract with NOAA, where NOAA pays this department to gather the stock-assessment data off the Coast of Louisiana –

Mr. Banks: A portion of it.

Chairman Yakupzack: – to, to contribute?

Mr. Banks: You're right, a portion of it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Right, a portion, and so that, that's my question, what, what is the amount of that contract and if we did our

own stock assessment, how much would, how much more would we have to have, would we have to spend more than we're currently being paid by the feds –

Mr. Banks: Oh, absolutely.

Chairman Yakupzack: – to do it?

Mr. Banks: Absolutely.

Mr. Banks: Myron, can you give us an idea of what they pay us, currently, to do the, the closer-end samples, as part of their survey?

Myron: Thank you, thank you for letting me address the Commission. For the fishery independent work, the states, the five states do take part in the sampling regime. In the case of plankton, as an example, there's 101 stations off Louisiana, but we only do seven of those stations and we do the seven closest to Grand Isle. To do an assessment, we would have to do all the stations twice a year, and some of the other sampling regimes, we do a much higher percentage, but, the numbers, you know, the numbers posted would be for us to arrive at the same data for the Louisiana stock assessment. And a percentage of what we do for ground fish, for I think there's 93, 91 or 93 stations for ground fish and this year we're doing 14 of them, so if we took over the full data collection, we would have to do all 93 stations. So, to answer your question, we get 400, we were at \$447,000.00 where we're funded, and through time, through the last few years, we were cut down to 391. We're up to 398 this year.

Commissioner Courville: Mr., Mr. Chairman,

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville

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Commissioner Courville: So, so you're, you're, make sure I understand this because I'm way out of my element here, you're saying' that currently, all of these samples are snapper-exclusive? There is absolutely no other species that's out there that you're looking' at?

Myron: No sir. The, but –

Commissioner Courville: So what do you do, so let me, okay I thought that was the answer, so what are you going to do with all the other species that you're looking' out, at, out there? You going to just stop that?

Myron: Well, the major expense is going to sea to get the data, so I'm certain all the data would at least be going into our data-management system, which is up there, and what happens politically, after that, could be out of my hands.

Commissioner Courville: So, conceptually, if we're going' out there, we're collecting, we're now collecting' that data?

Myron: Right.

Commissioner Courville: Can we send an invoice to the feds for all the other species that we've gathered data on?

Myron: If we wouldn't have a grant for it –

Commissioner Courville: Hell, we might make money on this.

Myron: Right, right, if we wouldn't have a grant –

Commissioner Courville: We can do it cheaper than they can do it.

Myron: But if they would pay us for it, I'm sure we'd happily take their money.

Secretary Melancon: If, let me answer that. I think I'm on the third time. Absolutely no funding from Commerce, NOAA, Council or anybody; that's the killer pill amendment. That's what the Chairman did it for. You don't get any money. You can do whatever you want and I, you know we've talked about well, are they still going to collect data? Yeah, they're still going to collect data. And will it be public knowledge? Yeah, at the end of the year you can get it. It doesn't do you any good all during those 12, those months before they publish it and put it out. So it may be 14 months before whatever data they collect comes out, for you to get to it, but they, the, the answer about the spending, about the funding is it's, is, as Mr. Grahada said, this is an unfunded, mandate and the perfect example of the definition.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Secretary. I, just to be clear, I, we, we're, this Commission is, as I think we're going to hear, I got a stack of white cards here an inch thick, we're going to hear from people that this Commission's been hearing from, over the last 3 weeks, and the, these questions that at least I'm asking, are, are from a perspective to give me the ability to answer some of these questions. And the questions are along the lines of we've got a Fisheries budget of, of nearly \$80 million, or so, and so if, if, what is it truly going to cost, and can that money come from other pots within the Fisheries Department, and that's the, that's the questions that are being' asked and so, to me, so that's why I'm trying' to fully understand these numbers. And, and I asked very pointed questions about the first set of numbers that we got 3 weeks ago, and that's all we're doing' now, is trying' to refine these numbers to understand, to be able to answer questions to the constituents, for, that, that call this Commission. So, that,

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that, I, I, I appreciate the answers there, Patrick, on that one and, and the next one is on enforcement. We see that there's a million dollars added for enforcement. Do, do, do, Colonel Broussard, do you want to take that one?

Colonel Broussard: Yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, that million dollars is for man hours and up to 50 percent of it can actually be used for equipment acquisitions, to do saltwater enforcement.

Chairman Yakupzack: And do, do, and will you please just explain for the, for the public, what saltwater enforcement you currently do, and under what, what arrangements do you, do you handle that?

Colonel Broussard: We currently have a joint enforcement agreement with NOAA, where we put man out on the Gulf to patrol in the EEZ out to 200 miles. And that covers all saltwater fisheries.

Chairman Yakupzack: Do you know the amount of that annual contract?

Colonel Broussard: Right now it is right at a million dollars.

Chairman Yakupzack: So, so in order, if, if, if somehow that was amended to remove the red snapper component out of it, it would, it would cost an additional million a year?

Colonel Broussard: Exactly.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay.

Chairman Yakupzack: –

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville?

Commissioner Courville: Let me, let me make sure I understood that right. So currently, the feds pay us a million dollars to patrol, and you're looking' at all species –

Colonel Broussard: That's correct.

Commissioner Courville: – of fish?

Colonel Broussard: That is correct.

Commissioner Courville: So under this unfunded mandate, what are they going to do with all the other fish in, in patrolling? I mean, are they just going to say they're on their own? I mean, are they going to stop patrol, I, I don't, I'm, I'm having' trouble. I get the unfunded mandate part of this, you know, I get that. But that sounds fine in concept, but in application you can't just close your eyes to one fish.

Secretary Melancon: Well, the only thing that I can assume, when you get no money, that's us. They're still getting their money. They'll get all the money that's supposed to come to us, but the law now says that any group associated with the Gulf Red Snapper Management Authority, will get no money, okay? So that money will just be re-budgeted and I would suspect they'll contract somebody to go and do those fisheries for me. They cannot spend it with any of the five states.

Commissioner Courville: The, so that's the way that, that you guys interpret this –

Secretary Melancon: Well that, that's the way that, that basically, when I've had discussions when I was in Congress about how these amendments work, in particular, because I've seen this amendment that withdraws funding, and there's actually an Unfunded Mandate Act, and so finally, maybe we'll get a number from the federal

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government of what that number is going to be, to the states. I would have wished I would had it out there, before we ever got to this point, but still in all, that Unfunded Mandate Act triggers actions by the Congress and staff, to produce some documents that we can all take a look at. So the Governor, myself, you, the public, CCA, everybody will get the chance to see that, at some point in time. But right now, based upon what the amendment says and does, is that no monies from NOAA can be shared with any of the five states associated with the Management Authority.

Commissioner Courville: Of red snapper? That's the way I read it.

Secretary Melancon: Management Authority, state or the Management Authority. So it doesn't matter whether it's another fish or not. They're not going to send the money. That's the intent of the amendment, is to kill the bill.

Commissioner Courville: Okay, I, I, and I interpret it a little bit differently, that's fine.

Secretary Melancon: Maybe we can get a reporter to call and talk to a parliamentarian, or maybe talk to Chairman Bishop, or Representative Young from Alaska or two other ones, Grahada from Arizona and Dingell from Michigan, because they all were opposed to it. And one of the problems with the bill is in the bill, every time it says Magnuson Stevens, and it was, the bill originally said we were going to be getting the federal funding, and when the Chairman said no you won't, Mr. Young then came in and says I would like to see Magnuson Stevens, the words completely taken out of this bill, to make sure that they don't dismantle Magnuson Stevens.

Commissioner Courville: Did that pass or fail?

Secretary Melancon: What?

Commissioner Courville: His –

Secretary Melancon: No he withdrew it - Mr. Graves would work with him, but he didn't see how he was going to be able to achieve that. Mr. Graves agreed to the same, so, you know, that's going to be problematic. You take Magnuson Stevens out of that bill and, basically, you don't have a bill. You might want to look at, I want to say for entertainment and enjoyment, but you might want to take a look at the meeting, I think it was the 15th, if I remember correctly of June, and when you get to the hearing, it starts around a Minute 33 or 34, I believe.

Commissioner Courville: Thank you, thank you, sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any other question or discussion from the Commission, at this time? With considering' we'll move forward. We got, we have quite a few public comments here. I'll start with the ones that do not wish to speak, I have a comment from a Ben Graham of Baton Rouge. He does not wish to speak. Says he supports state management of red snapper. Say again? Okay. You get, you get put in a bigger stack. So, next comment, does not want to, wish to speak, Mr. Scott Rainey from Lafayette, his comment is that he wants the state to manage red snapper. Next comment, Mr. Carlos Vega, I support state regulated, state-regulated snapper season, Lafayette, Louisiana. And the final comment not wishing to speak is a Mr. Charles Cheramie of 210 Ladane Lane, Lot 1. The city's not listed and he checked the box that says I am against the proposal.

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I'm not, I'm not sure, clarity. All right, so first up for public comments verbally, we'll start with Mr. Graham and, as he heads up here I'm going to let you know we used to have a giant 3-foot-diameter clock back there on the wall that we could use to help regulate this. I don't know what, maybe, if that went –

LDWF Employee: I'll see if I can get maintenance -

Chairman Yakupzack: That went out with the, with the, with our funding or what, but in any case, I'm going to pull out my phone, not to be rude, just to, to keep a time and to, kinda, keep this flowing'. I think considering' this stack of folks, we ought to limit to 3 minutes, the best we can. If you're right in the middle of a thought, I'm going to let you roll through it, but I'll have to interrupt you, too much longer than that. So, Mr. Graham, state your name and your address and have at it.

Mr. Ben Graham: My name is Ben Graham. My address is 425 Leeward Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and I appreciate your time, Commissioner and Secretary. I appreciate you guys being' here today. I'm a recreational fisherman. I fish out of Grand Isle. I've got a couple of kids I try to take fishing', but no kids-know-how-to- fish week. Get hooks everywhere, except in the fish's mouth. I just wanted to go over a few things. I've been following' this deal for a while, because you guys know there's plenty of red snapper off the Coast of Louisiana and the Secretary brought up, you know, there's plenty here, but there's not enough in Florida. And that's been that way for a long time. We've tried to work through regional management and the Council, and it has never passed. It's never gone anywhere, you know, for whatever reason, which is, in my opinion, why the, the Graves Bill has come

up the way it has. There are plenty of fish in Louisiana. There are plenty of fish in Texas. West, east of the river, there's not quite as many fish and we know that, which, you know, we shouldn't be concerned with trying' to move the fish from here to there, but it would make logical sense to split it up and try to manage it more locally, to achieve the goal of conservation of the resources and the best solution for all user groups. And really, you know, I, I just, I want to see us have access to the fish. I want to be able to continue to make memories, my kids and my family, takin' 'them fishing', and at the same time being' mindful of the resource and not, you know, not over-fishing it. I just feel like, you know, the, the issue keeps coming' up about the Council wanting' to have a recreational advisory committee. Well, part of the reason that I see issue with that is, there was a snapper advisory committee that was formed, and I think 3 or 4 years ago, maybe longer. Those guys put a, and I know two guys who were on the, on that committee, they put a bunch of time in, came up with a bunch of ideas, communicated those to the Council and they all went in the garbage. They didn't do anything with any of 'them, didn't act on any of 'them. So it's kinda hard to convince somebody to go and, and I've been to probably ten Council meetings, and I was at one of them and they said well, would you be willing to serve on this committee? And my response to 'them was, yes I would, but if you're going to do the same thing you did the ideas last time, then what's the point of anybody being' on the committee. If you already have a predetermined notion of what you want to do, we're not, I mean, I took off work to come here today, and I do that when I go the Council meetings, same thing. You know, if you, I'm not going to put my time in and expect other people to do that, if you already have an idea of what you're going to achieve. But, I do support state

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management of red snapper. I think it's the right thing to do. I think it's the right thing for the people of Louisiana. You know, the sportsmen here, as well as the, you know, the communities along the coast. I appreciate your time and, hopefully we'll see you again soon.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Next up, Mr. Drew Ballard. State your name and address, please?

Mr. Drew Ballard: My name's Drew Ballard, Grand Isle, Louisiana, 104 Orleans Avenue, anyway, I, I don't support the, the Graves Bill at all. I'm a young, commercial fisherman and it could kill off commercial fishing, in general, so I, I don't support it. And I just wanted to be, let that be known. I don't really have much else to say on it, keep it short and sweet, but I wanted it to be known that I don't support it. Okay.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Ballard.

Mr. Ballard: Thank you for your time.

Chairman Yakupzack: Next up, Mr. Buddy Guidon, is that right?

Buddy Guidon: Guidon, close enough.

Chairman Yakupzack: Guidon, sorry. Again, the same handwritten quality as myself. Representing Gulf of Mexico Re-Fish Shareholders Alliance. Will you state your address, please?

Buddy Guidon: Yes, 1902 Wharf Road, Galveston, Texas. I represent commercial fishermen from Key West Florida, Brownsville, Texas and the Graves Amendment is nothing more than a fish grab. The Coastal Conservation Association and recreational fishing organizations have

been trying to take fish away from commercial fishermen and charter boat fishermen for years. They haven't been able to accomplish that through the Council process, so now they want state management, because then they can get out from underneath Magnuson Stevens, and it actually gives commercial fishermen and charter boat fishermen protection. It keeps us in the business of fishing. As it states in the Graves Amendment, or Graves Bill that they'd be able to take 10 percent of the commercial fishery. They could take 100 percent of the commercial fishery and give it to the purely recreational fishermen. It will not give them a year-round fish. It will not give them a big bag limit. What we have to do is work out a management system for the purely recreational fishermen. Forget about trying to take fish away from the 98 percent of the people in this country that deserve access to the fish of the commercial fishery and the rides on charter boats. You have to get away from that idea and start working on a management system. The only ones that haven't come to the table to work on a management system is the pure recs. I understand they have jobs. They need to go. They need to force their representation, like the Coastal Conservation Association, to start acting instead of fundraising, on an issue that's very important to the people in these coastal communities. With that said, we have an issue of a lot of fish off the Texas coast, a lot of fish off Louisiana, a lot of fishermen over in the eastern Gulf. That's something you could address, but in essence, your Council votes aren't going to let you do that, , because there's three states that have very little fish and two states that have a lot of fish. So I think working on just a management plan for pure-rec fishermen, give them a tag where they can fish year-found. They want year-round access, a tag. You hold onto it. Instead of a derby fishery that forces people to go fish when the

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government tells them to, give them a tag, let them go fish when they want. Then the pressure that you create by having a, a very short season would go away, kinda like it does with your state season. It's much longer. You don't have the pressure for people go out in the state's -, because they have lots of time to get it done. So instead of looking for solutions and, and you, you have a great representation in Louisiana now on, on, on the Council. They're finally starting to move issues forward, where in the past, we've had deadlock. Nothing gets done, eight/nine votes. It's very frustrating for someone that's in a family business. I buy 500,000 pounds of red snapper out of Grand Isle, Louisiana commercially, to be distributed in Louisiana, Texas. That's my business. It's very frustrating to keep going to these Council meetings and seeing nothing getting done and, and since Louisiana has had a change in administration, there's actually things happening. And I think if you went with trying' to find a solution to this problem, it, instead of rebuilding it, when you take state management and divide it up five ways, you still have to figure out a way to bring that together. So that's another added cost you're going to have. Bringing all five states together to figure out the, what, what we do as a total and, and you're going to have other management shortcomings', like like they're going to require that you have observer coverage on your commercial boats. They're going to require that you either have cameras or, or observer coverage, so not all of the costs have even been looked at. So, if you're looking' at the feds are, they're going to take all the money away from anything that touches red snapper, in the Graves Bill. So we need to forget about the Graves Bill. We need to move on to finding a solution in the recreational fishery that'll work for the fishermen. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mr. Scott Hickman, representing Charter Fishermen's Association.

Mr. Scott Hickman: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the Commission. Thanks for letting' me, come over here and speak today. First off, I'd like to say I'm a, a founding Board member of the Charter Fishermen's Association. We're the largest federally permitted charter boat association in the Gulf of Mexico. I'm a 30-year participant in the charter boat and a new participant in commercial fishery, out of Galveston, Texas. I have hunting ranches all over Texas. We run about 2,500 people throughout our ranches and our boats every year. My wife runs the business and one of our popular trips that she books is what we call our, our south Louisiana and Louisiana tuna fishing' experience. And it's a lot of our deer hunters and stuff that come to Texas. She sets these trips to come to Venice and fish with your federally permitted boats over here. Y'all got a great resource and we appreciate it. I enjoy it myself a few times a year, as well. First off, I'm here to speak about the Graves Amendment, HR3094. Our association's adamantly against the Graves Amendment. The charter boats want no part of it. The commercial folks want no part of it. It's obvious that the plan is about taking 99 percent of America's access away from them. 99 percent of the people in Louisiana don't own offshore boats. They access the fishery through the great restaurants here in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. People come from all over the world to eat in those restaurants. Same thing with the charter boats. Charter boats offer access to this fishery to 99 percent of the population of the country that don't have these private boats, or have access to these private boats. It, it's pretty obvious that this is a fish-ground, like Mr. Gwinden said, and, you know, going'

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back, y'all talked about sector separation issues earlier, uh. The Texas charter boat captains started working', or were approached by some of the Florida captains, back about 10 years ago, and being', you know, the good Texans we were, we reached out to our friends at CCA National in Houston. Over about a year-and-a-half period of time, we asked for multiple meetings to set down with our federally permitted charter boat fleet and the folks at CCA. Not one time would they accept our invitation to set down and come up with solutions. So, that's how the Charter Fishermen's Association, kind of, got going'. It grew, and grew and grew, to where over the majority of the guys in the Gulf now, ladies, that are federally permitted, have joined the Association. Other associations have joined the Association and we have worked with the Gulf Council to find real solutions to these problems, and we, we've come a long way. We got two amendments working' through the process right now. We got electronic logbooks on, on fleets all over the Gulf right now. La Greel doing' a great job here and I think that solutions are the way to go. And the Gulf Council can do a great job. We're appreciative to have Patrick Banks on the Gulf Council now and make this new motion to fix things for the private recreational folks. They deserve the same great, sustainable, accountable access that the commercial fleet now enjoys, and that the charter boat fleet hopes to enjoy pretty soon, too. So if anything else, I just, you know, list, listen to your folks that are on that Gulf Council. I think they, they represent this Commission very well and they're going to find a, a good solution for your anglers and I, you know, right now people keep talking' about not having' access. Here in Texas we got 365 days a year, in state waters, so a lot of that Texas access is coming through state waters, for the private recreational folks. I don't know

what y'all's season's going to be in state waters this year, but I think it's close to 300 or 250 days, or something' like that, so there's, there's a lot of that access is happening' through state waters. You know, I know that the federal season would be much, much longer if we did away with the state water seasons around the Gulf, so it's not just the problem of the federal agencies that are managing these fisheries. We've all got to come together and fix the problem and, once again, I applaud Patrick Banks and his folks at the Council for, finally, getting' a motion to fix this, so thank you very much.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Next up, Mr. Shane Cantrell, Charter Fishermen's Association, or was that you? No, that's another one, Charter Fishermen's Association. Sorry. State your name and address, please?

Captain Shane Cantrell: Captain Shane Cantrell, 4424 Avenue L, Galveston, Texas. I'm the Executive Director of the Charter Fishermen's Association. We're a gulf-wide charter organization. We're the largest federally permitted charter boat association in the Gulf of Mexico. We've got members all over, from all five Gulf States. I just wanted to point out a couple things on the Graves Bill. It creates more government bureaucracy. It's not creating a smaller government. It's creating a much, much larger government. We're going to have five different plans going' five different directions, none of which have the funding to be able to do that as we, we recently found got cut. So that, that's going to create a, even a bigger hurdle than, than what we had before. The private anglers are the ones getting' caught in the middle of this. It, it's not, not going to give them anymore access. Being able to, to have these five, five Gulf states fighting over which, which direction

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to go and what to do with commercial fishery, it's not going to solve anything. What is working is through the Gulf Council. The commercial industry's gotten their house in order. The charter boats have, have got a season for the non-boat-owned public. We're developing a management system for the charter boats and the head boats and I applaud Patrick and, and the Secretary for getting the ball rolling for the private anglers, to be able to come to the Gulf Council and get something' working that, that's going to be developed from the Private Angler Advisory Panel, made up of strictly private anglers, to get the best thing that's going to work for them, instead of the same thing we, we've had for year after year, meeting after meeting, to the Gulf Council and, and pushing' from the federal government, of nothing getting done. Nothing's getting done, because the recreational representation on that Council has made it that way. It's not, because nothing can get done, it's, because they've continually voted against it. We need to get something new on there and I, I really believe the State of Louisiana's going to take the lead on that and, and step forward.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Cantrell. Next up, Mr. Johnathan Walker. Johnathan Walker not here? Not at the moment, at least. Mr. Steve Leonard. Yes sir.

Steve Leonard: Steve Leonard, Clinton, Louisiana. I'm a recreational fisherman. I'm in favor of the Graves Bill. I'm astounded by the own words of the commercial fishermen, 500,000 pounds from Grand Isle, is that what I heard? Did I hear that correctly?

Chairman Yakupzack: Yes sir.

Steve Leonard: That was purchased? That's 10-pound fish, that's 50,000 fish, and we're actually having' a discussion here about recreational fishermen over-harvesting or are we worried about that? I, I'm just, I, I am so in favor of getting away from whoever is telling us that we are catching so many fish in 9 days that we're endangering the recreation of the total harvest of red snapper. And I would just like you to please consider the recreational fishermen. I'm a \$15.00-an-hour guy. I am not a rich guy, okay? I, I work for every dime I have and I, I'm glad to get out, just a little bit and enjoy this recreational harvest, but golly guys, we're hurting'. We, we're hurting' here, because we, we get 9 days in the federal waters and, and by the grace of the government, we get a 1-year, 9-mile limit. I, I mean, I just don't get that. I don't understand that. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Leonard. Mr. Joshua Duhon, you, you wish to speak?

Mr. Joshua Duhon: No sir. I, I put no.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay, no you put, actually, must've meant to put no. You put yes, but you say other. His, his comment is that he supports state management of red snapper.

Mr. Joshua Duhon: Sir? Okay. Good afternoon, gentlemen. My name is Joshua Duhon. I'm from Youngsville, Louisiana. I'm from the Vermillion Bay area and all year long we get a 9-day season, and most of the people that I know and, and talk to on a daily basis have regular jobs and, and can't take off during' those 9 days, and can, maybe, only fish the weekend. But if you looked at the weather this year and the storm, and everything that occurred, I didn't get to make it out there. I have a family that

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loves to fish and we didn't get to fish. So, I'm here today to say I do support state management of red fishing, because of, red snapper fishing, excuse me, because of the fact that we don't get to enjoy the, the 9 miles and the statewide season that most people get to enjoy in the east, because if we live in the Bay area, we have further runs to get to state red snapper grounds. So I understand with everybody, you know, wanting' to work together and everything else, but, you know, with seeing' what the Gulf Council's accomplished for recreational fishermen, I think it, it's time for the state to step up and do something', to help all the, the average people that pay each and every year to go fishing', get their license, their boats, everything else, so thank you for your time.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Duhon. Mr. James Bruce? State your name and address, please?

Mr. James Bruce: James Bruce, Cutoff, Louisiana, third generation commercial fisherman. I'm again' the Graves Bill, because it won't fix nothing'. First of all, y'all got to fix the state. The states keep it open year-round, and it goes to the TAC, it goes to the quota. So if y'all get the states in order, and follow the federal laws, then y'all get more days to fish. We don't get many days. I get maybe 10 days a year, as a commercial fisherman, but we went from, we got cut in half, when we went in 2007 to this system, and we didn't hear no, no complaining' from the commercial, because the fuel was \$4.00 a gallon. Now we doubled in our quota, and now in the last 9 years, how much more licenses are y'all selling'? So how big the pie is going to be? Not everybody can go kill a polar bear, you know? You got to have tags and all. Y'all got to get this, the recreational side straight. It's nothing' to do with the commercial.

Stop trying' to take our fish. We feed people. And if somebody could tell me why the states are open so long, I'd like to know. And they all get a long, longer season, instead of 9 days. So they got to have a meeting somewhere, instead of trying' to take the fish, get y'all house in order, the recreational. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mr. Russell Bellard?

Mr. Russell Bellard: My name's Russell Bellard. I'm from Lafayette, Louisiana. Let's talk some numbers, just a minute. 9 days, yes, the recreational length is 9 days, that to catch 406, 460,000 fish. In the Gulf of Mexico, from Florida to Brownsville, Texas, the catch, our share of the tack at two fish per man, two 10-pound fish, in 9 days, that means we would have to have 23,000 recreational anglers go out from Florida to Brownsville, and take off of work, have great weather, calm seas and each man would catch two 10-pound fish, for 9 consecutive days. Now you tell me those numbers make sense. Are there 23,000 recreational anglers going' from Florida to Brownsville to do this? Heck no. That is the numbers you get from the Gulf Management Regional Council and from the federal government. So when you want to go make camps with the feds, this is what you get. Look what the hell's going' on in Washington today. You know all the upside-down, tipsy-turvy things that are happening'. So, I'm trying' to stay brief, the federal data's flawed. Every, every number they come out with flawed. They, they, these numbers prove they're flawed. The state went out of compliance, as Texas had done in 2006, I think, I was, I was very proud of our state for finally stepping' up to the plate and telling' the feds where they could stick it. Then Florida joined us, Alabama joined us, Mississippi joined us

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and now us pushing' for state management. You can't take red snapper from the rocks and move them to the Florida rocks. This, they're not a pelagic fish. You can't put them in a boat and transport, port them over there. You have to manage what we have and our state can take care of our business; not Florida's business, our business. Texas take care of your business, Louisiana will take care of our business. All I heard is how we can't do it, how we can't raise money. Well, why do you have to spend a million dollars to go out 40 miles and check red snapper fishermen, and spend all of that money? Why don't you just stay right there by the ports? I got to come back to my port. I got to go home. You got to come back to every one of our ports, so why does the Wildlife and Fisheries have to run 40 and 50 miles out looking' for red snapper fishing', burning' all that fuel and all that money, to check just a few people, when you could check every person? Whether it's the speckled trout fishermen safety violations, you can check everything staying' close in your home ports. What about a red snapper stamp? I'm going' to lobster in' in Florida. I have to buy a lobster stamp. I know every one of us rec, recreational fishermen would contribute monies because it costs us a lot of money to go fishing'. Conclusion, Mr. Melancon, you said we get some, give some, well we been given' a lot, my friend, and we been getting' a lot and, and it hadn't been very nice. And, I think it is impossible to work with the feds. I, I've come to that conclusion. I'm 67 years old. I have ten grandchildren. I would love to take them snapper fishing'. I cannot do it right now, in 9 days I cannot do it. It's impossible, almost impossible for me to do it. I, obviously support state management of this fishery and I think our people are accountable to us, in each state, and they will do a job for it. I am very disappointed that our state seems to be wavering on such

hard work that all five states have come together to push forward. Thank you for, uh.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mr. Wayne Werner?

Mr. Wayne Werner: Wayne Werner, 16731 Northwest Avenue, 73rd Terrace, Alachua, Florida. I've been running' my fishing' operation out of Leesville, Louisiana since 1985. 80 percent of the fish that I bring to the dock are sold right here, in Baton Rouge, New Orleans. And you know me, I'm proud to be a commercial fisherman and I'm proud that we help support the tourism here. And I think that, you know, a lot of people don't understand the whole concept. The Graves Bill, I stand against it, but it also has a statement to Magnuson Stevens. You cannot take the state and just run your state. You still have to run it with the other four states. And, you know, the reason why they wanted to drop the ball on regional management be, before Patrick got there, was real simple. They couldn't come to an agreement on how many, who got how many fish. Everybody wanted more fish. They couldn't do it. I agree. The, the state should run the private recreational angler. I just don't think it should be under the Graves Amendment. Now, as far as this costs, I have to say something' about it, because in your fishery independent data, that fishery service requires checks and balances, and part of the checks and balances on this is going to be, the observer programs, or video monitoring. They're expensive systems to run. But it's part of the checks and balances that have to go with fisheries' dependent data. The other thing that hasn't been mentioned here is, every action that's happened with the red snapper, has resulted in a lawsuit. So you might as well put that into your cost analysis, because if you think, because the state's going to run it, the, the

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lawsuits are going to stop, it's not going to happen. And, you know, I watched this Council, kind of, degrade into the situation, and I think I see a little light at the end of the tunnel, because I'm the only person I know that's attended over 100 Gulf Council meetings. And, you know, having done that you're going to see a lot of stuff happening, and I think what I see happening' now is I see a shift where we, you know, you're going to have to go in that direction. And it's pretty simple, you know, just like some of the people said, you get 46 days, if you shut down all the states from, if they all went compliant, they get the same amount days as the charter boats; 46, but that's probably not going to happen in this day and age. So, you know, I just wanted to and I'm glad that you gave me the time to come and talk to you today. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Werner. Mr. Ed Pitre?

Mr. Ed Pitre: My name's Ed Pitre. 18716 Highway 3235, Galliano. I'm a fourth-generation commercial fisherman, and charter fisherman, and I run a couple of boats out of Fourchon and Gynal. I'm against the Graves Bill. I don't think the state should get a hold of it, because the feds are doing' a pretty good job. 12-14 years ago, I seen a decrease in red snapper. It's hard to catch your limit out there. Whatever the feds did over this time, they made it happen, and so I say why throw a wrench in the spokes. Leave them, leave them do their thing. They're doing' a good job. Thank you y'all, guys.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Pitre. Mr. Steve Tomany?

Mr. Steve Tomany: I'm Steve Tomany. My address is 119 Constantine Drive in Port Fourchon, Louisiana. I grew up here in

Baton Rouge. I've been in the charter fishing business, I think I incorporated my business in 1982. I started working' on boats in the '70s. I'm also a commercial red snapper fisherman and I have been living this red snapper management, whatever you want to call it, it's been a up-and-down system, but I have seen this, this thing, as much as it's cost me over the years. I had, I used to have four boats. We used to run 150 trips a year on four boats, takin' 15-20 people a a time. I'm down to Ed that just spoke, is buying' one of my boats. I have another boat, but we had to really taper down, because of cutbacks. My business was really built real strong and squarely on red snapper fishing'. I've had to cut back, and I'm not saying' that as a complaint. I think it had to happen. We were killing' a lot of red snapper. I was about, you know, 15 years ago, about getting' ulcers about where I was going to catch the next one, for these groups of people. Everybody has big expectations, when they go on your boat and it was really tough to come back with a good, a basket or two of red snapper. That's all changed, so red snapper management has worked. Who gets what is always the thorny question, and it still is, and I started going' to Council meetings', I've always, I went to some way back in the, way back years, but I started going' 9 or 10 years ago, and I've only missed two since. That's about five a year. I go, a lot of my personal time and, and, and expense to, to go to these things and witness them, try to influence what I can influence, and I told Mr. Melancon on the first time I met him, I said I'm, I'm really tired of going' to these meetings where my state representative has his hand up against everything that we were trying' to do, in the commercial industry and the charter industry. It's really frustrating to see no follow up, no help from anybody in Louisiana. These are our businesses, this is how we make a living. Like I said, at one

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time I had four or five crews working' for me, I had a dozen people working' for me. I've shaved it on down, you know? But it, it, it had to go this way. I have been a proponent of some kind of tag system and I know nobody likes me telling' the recreational guys what they need to have, but one man was talking' about he couldn't go in June. If they get some kind of tag system you'll be able to plan your, your day. This is what we've been working for in the charter industry. We've got, we work for, and it took us 9 years to get sector separation. We have a quota of fish and we have a bunch of permitted, federal permitted charter boats and we're, you know, we tease about you're going to have to throw us in a room and take all the knives and guns away and we'll come out with how we're going to divide amongst ourselves but at least the industry's working through this council process to get it done for ourselves instead of having somebody from up above just tell us how it's going to be. At least I have input and, and it's important and sometimes we get ignored just like, you know, you don't always vote the way that everybody tells you to up here. It's, it's perfectly understandable but, but we also, our input helps, in the long run it starts helping'. And we have just seen kind of a no movement situation in the recreational fishery. And it'll happen sooner or later but there's a lot of us that put a lot of our time and our businesses depend on what we've been able to gain in the fisheries process in the council and we're very pleased to have Secretary Melancon and calling' some of the shots for us. I appreciate it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mr. Scott Rainey, Lafayette.

Mr. Scott Rainey: My name's Scott Rainey, I live at 113 La Port Circle, Lafayette, Louisiana. I'd like to thank the Commission

for the opportunity to speak again. I've got a couple of questions and refer to these points, first thing council's not working, council get, can't get anything done, and why would we create another bureaucracy? If this is not working, why wouldn't we create another bureaucracy? What you guys are doing' doesn't work so let's stop doing it. There, there's no point to continue down a path that doesn't lead anywhere. Regional management is not funded, we need \$10 million. Do a \$10.00 tag, it's funded. We paid for it. It's a very simple solution. How many recreational licenses are there out there? I mean this is a number we can easily measure, figure out what it would cost to, to fund this management system. I heard that the quota's been doubled; where did those fish go? We didn't catch them as recreational fishers. We've got 9 days to do it and I can guarantee you I'm not catching more than 4 fish a year. Is the fishery model even accurate? You know 2 years ago we were saying there are no red snapper, we got to keep it at 2 fish, the snapper population isn't increasing, and anybody that goes out there can tell you there are red snapper everywhere in Louisiana. So I, I would like to know, is the model we're using even accurate? Does this sampling that we do truly represent what's out there? The second thing or I guess the last think I want to say is, you know, and Secretary Melancon mentioned this, he said that to have a compromise, you know, nobody can walk away happy. Well the only people who are unhappy are the recreational fishermen. The commercial fishermen want to keep the system as is because you're winning. I would suggest that this is not a compromise, this is not a fish grab from the recreational side, and the quota is not going to change if we go to state management, as I understand it. So, you know, there are things that can be done; what we're doing now is not working. Thanks.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Mr. Gunner Waldman of Abbeville?

Mr. Gunner Waldman: Good afternoon Commission Members and Mr. Secretary, thank y'all for the time to allow me to speak today. I've been red snapper fishing' out of Vermillion Bay, trout fishing, been a saltwater fisherman since I was about 4 years old. As most of you, we're all Cajuns, it's a way of life with us. So, I've saw the lean years growing' up back in the, early '60s and '70s and I've seen the good years. And first off, I also I, I've worked for this department as a game warden in Vermillion Patch for 13 years so I'm, I'm very versed and respected. I have much respect for this department and the Commission. But anyway, I think Magnuson Stevens, the way that the red snapper assessment, stock assessments is 30 years old. The first thing is I think it's broken. I think the, the formulations are bad, I think there are way more red snapper than, than is being' formulated and, so with that said I'd like to see Senator, I mean Gary Graves' bill go forward and pass and also I'm for the bill and for our regional and state management of red snapper. Second is something, if we don't do anything I now make my living' as a safety consultant out in the gas field. I've seen hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of platforms being' removed with thousands of pounds of red snapper being' decimated; where do they go? Most of the time in olden days they blew up a platform, they're doing less of that now but those fish are dead. We don't have scuba divers going' down there and shewing away the red snapper, all fish. And lastly I am a scuba diver and spear fisherman. I can take any one of you on my boat, actually bring you videos from YouTube that we film our dives. We can't shoot amber jack during amber jack season because sometimes the red snapper are

getting in the way. We spend way more time trying', we spend a whole tank, 50 minutes down on the bottom trying to shoot one amber jack because there are just sometimes when you go to take a shot you got to small red snapper getting' in your way. So – But to get back to my original thing, the, the, the framework in which red snapper, stock assessments are done is, is flawed. We are using old formulation and that needs to be fixed in Magnuson Stevens. And if that's done then everybody would, I think would be happy and we would get more of a sustainable stock in red snapper and be able to harvest more. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Next I have David Cresson, CCA

David Cresson: Good afternoon, commissioners. We got here in the morning but its afternoon now. Thank you for having' me, my name is David Cresson, I am the executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association. And, it's a pleasure to be with you this morning'. Commissioner Courville, you mentioned earlier that you're going to have to go to a Gulf Council meeting sometime soon, well don't bother because you've got one going' on here right now, you've got, you know our friends from Texas and Florida who are here giving' the same speeches that they give every time at the Gulf Council, so you just assume that everything you hear here today is, is what's been scripted and they've talked about a thousand times before, so, it feels a lot like a Gulf Council meeting today. You know one thing that's clear to me in listening to everything that I've heard is how few people have actually read Congressman Graves' bill. If anybody anywhere thinks that Congressman Graves would do anything to purposefully injure the commercial fisheries in Louisiana or

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anywhere else, they just simply don't know Congressman Graves or what his motives are. I should also mention that his bill has 40 some-odd co-authors from both sides of the aisle including all but one I believe of the Louisiana delegates as a co-author. So, this is not some fly by the seat of our pants, throw something' together bill, this has been worked on for years now. Even before Congressman Graves was a congressman well this is sort of the culmination. One other thing, and I want to comment on something' the secretary said earlier and, and he mentioned that the Gulf Council save, saved red snapper. I don't believe that's true. I think Gulf, Gulf red snapper were in a lot of trouble until this, the Gulf Council was sued by conservationists, including CCA, and that turned the management of red snapper to a, toward a positive direction. So, as Mr. Tomeny said, 15 years ago it was hard to find them; they got sued, they were held to, to the proper management styles and then snapper turned around. So they were failing it, got sued and now it's made a recovery. I, too much on my paper to comment on, there's too many comments made, too many corrections to try and make so I, I really just want to talk about frustration. I've been at CCA 9 years and with all due respect to our friends at the department, and they are friends, most of them have been to 2 meetings. We have been down this road, we have been asking for better management for 9 years now. The system has failed. It has failed us miserably. The secretary mentioned something about the quota nearly doubling and it has gone up but we're stuck at 9 days. So that's not working'. So after these years and years and years of frustration you can understand why it was time for congressional action. You know, an act of Congress is what they say when something' is really hard, you need an act of Congress. Well, that's what we needed; well, we got one. And

Congressman Graves stepped up, put this together, and worked with all the user groups in doing so got a lot of feedback from all of them. If anybody denies that they're just not telling' the truth, he worked with all of them to put this together and came out with HR-3094. We were thrilled, we were thrilled when Governor Edwards pledged his support to the 5-state management plan and we were thrilled to hear the secretary and so forth say the same things leading up to where we are now. You can imagine our frustration upon hearing that the department was not on board with the commission's resolution from earlier that month, and I expressed this to the secretary and I must admit I, I would say the secretary and I have a very open and honest dialogue back and forth, I told him we were disappointed about this, he explained the reasons he thought they had to be where they were. But it occurred to me that the announcement that was made was made before the commission knew that it was going to be made. It was made before any of the user groups like ours knew that it was going to be made. It was made before the governor knew it was going to be made. The only people that knew about it besides the department were some anti-recreational groups who were floating around like it was a, a, like an e-high 5, running' around in the internet world. So that was frustrating. We talked about that and understood that we just moved forward. It's also frustrating that the concerns that were, were expressed about the bill were not expressed to the congressman before they were made public, and they were not expressed to us, they were not expressed really to anybody until they were expressed to some reporter in Texas. So you can understand the frustrations that, that we feel. We have the final frustration; there's several more obviously but the final frustration is to hear that the preferred alternative is to go back to the Gulf Council.

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We've been there already; like on four members said earlier when the committees put together recommendations and the Gulf Council doesn't like them, they just ignore them. So I think in the amendment that's been put forth by the department it talks about the recreational ad hoc committee that's going to be put together; it doesn't matter what that committee says, if it doesn't fit with what the Gulf Council thinks they're going to vote it down. So, Mr. Banks mentioned that the vote for that amendment was 9 to 6 and that's strong support. Well, had Louisiana voted how they had been voting in previous it was have been 8 to 7 and it would have been one of those close votes just like it always had been. So, you know, I, I found it interesting to see how many times CCA was mentioned in the comments earlier and I think anybody would recognize that we've taken a wait and see approach on this. We've, we met with the secretary, and I talked to him the day of the announcement. We've, we've got a good rapport. We met with him and the governor later that week. We are committed to try and find a good solution to make this work. And we're going to continue to do that. But going back to square one, really, which is where we would be with the Gulf Council is just not 'something' that any of us can afford to stomach. I mean you're talking' years and years of frustration. Amendment 39 was a good looking' piece of work when it first came out. After the Gulf Council got their hands on it for 5 years it, it was no good, it couldn't, and it was unviable. So, I could go on and on, I know I'm against the clock, my paper is filled with things I would like to say but I'll reserve those for a later day. Again, I thank you for your comments, we do very much look forward to working' with the department, we've got a great relationship with them in a number of ways, and we hope we can work through this one as well. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Second call for Johnathan Walker. Okay. That concludes the public comments on Agenda Items 13, a couple of these comments are strictly for, are, are also include 14 which, is Mr. Blanchet going to come up and complete that part now? So I'll formally read it. Agenda Item 14 is to hear an update on the red snapper season. Presenting, Mr. Harry Blanchet.

Mr. Harry Blanchet: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. Let's see if I can get this thing working. Okay, that's the right one. Hmm, I show it here, I don't see it up there.

Mr. Harry Blanchet: There we go. Okay. You just have to push the button hard. This is a relatively brief update, we've had a recreational season that has been open since early in the year. This year was a little bit different because the feds actually agreed that we've got 9 miles off shore which is a nice benefit to some people, not so much as some people have pointed out in the western part of the state. So a little bit, I'm sorry for the spaghetti but I could not, I wanted to show as much detail as possible, where we are. This actually is through the 26th of June, so these are, these data have, include the information from the red snapper recreational private boat season. I don't know if this is going to show up or not, no, it's not. This year, the, the federal season typically is a time when we have our, most productive week. This year was not as productive as many other years has been. There was a lot of rough weather. It wasn't that people could not catch their two fish, it was that there weren't that many people that really wanted to buck that weather and go get those two fish. So as a result what you have there is the data for 2014 in the black, 2015 in the, I guess that's green and the red

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is 2016 and each of those numbers is the pounds landed by recreational fishermen through the same date. And, the two then go forward. So trying to estimate where we might be relative to where historically, we would normally be, this is our historic fraction of the overall recreational, allowable harvest. And so at 545,000 pounds through the 26th, you can see we're relatively close to our overall, average. For the, for our sector, they have been following very closely with where they were last year, when they also had an extended season. There's two more weeks of their season to go, they've run through, oh, I'm sorry, there's three more weeks of their season to go, they run through Week 28. And so our projections are that they will do a little bit better than they did last year, I'm sorry, not as good as they did last year. Oh, no, a little better than they did last year. And then we have, so that's our projection of that basically through the end of the year. I put them all together and here's where we stand compared to, the prior 2 years. The main difference for 2014 of course is that much smaller, charter season and, but you can see that even so this year we're falling, we're a little bit behind both the other years. And this is, I will say that what we have here is one projection but depending upon what kind of, parameters you might put into your model, this is very much like showing just one model of the hurricane centers, projections where, you know, you really have a spaghetti and so I would say that unless, I would not put a whole lot of faith in the, total harvest being at exactly 1.116 million pounds on, at the middle of October. But we will be able to continue monitoring this, as we, as we progress forward and I'll be glad to take any questions.

Chairman Yakupzack: Harry, thank you for your presentation. Just as a point of clarity I

have a question, I note that the, the numbers are different, in the, in the packet that was sent to us, Tuesday than, than are in the packet that we were given today.

Mr. Harry Blanchet: Correct.

Chairman Yakupzack: Did, did anything change other than you've got an additional –

Mr. Harry Blanchet: We actually –

Chairman Yakupzack: – week worth of data?

Mr. Harry Blanchet: – added one week's data.

Chairman Yakupzack: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Courville: Yes, Mr. Chairman, before we leave this, sir, I sort of viewed 13 and 14 together. I, I do have a couple of follow-up questions and, and it's really just a request more than, more than questions. Mr. Banks, at some point can we get sort of some clarification of what that independent data, looks like in your, in your budget estimate, and then to, to go again with my, question earlier, if we can find out perhaps even through a, a freedom of information request from the feds what they're currently spending on, on snapper. I'd also like a, you know, we heard some things today, perhaps, I know you guys have a full plate to deal with but, I would be interested in an analysis by whomever is the appropriate party, to get an analysis of what the Graves bill will, will do, potentially to the commercial and the for-hire industry. and then my last question, I think, actually no, I've got a couple, but my last request would be how soon will we see, a draft, if you will, of what this amendment at the Gulf Council's going to look like as far as a solution for the recreational snapper issue. I'd like to put a, yeah, the, the amendment

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was, open-ended, if you will, and open-ended amendments to me look like placeholders as opposed to, to tasks. I would like to know, and I'm not asking' you today to give me a number, I'd like to know how soon, perhaps maybe even at the next Commission meeting how soon will we see, that language, that it's going to look, and then what is it going to look like? ideally, and again, I know you guys, have a lot to do, I know this thing has a long sordid history, but I, I think, if, if inevitably we, we go that route, which I'm not suggesting one way or the other, it'd be good to know if it's an option then we need to know what it's going to look like. I would, I would be in favor of that. and, and then I heard today and, and maybe this isn't the setting for that but I heard a lot of tag discussion for the recreational folks, and perhaps we could have an update on what a tag system might look like, for the recreational folks if that's what it, what it appears that the commercial sector is in favor of. I'd like for the public to have a chance to get their handle, and myself for that matter on what a tag program would actually look like. I've got my, my thoughts on it and, I'm all over the place but, somebody with some experience can, can share with us and the public what a tag program would actually look like. and I, I guess my last question is, we've heard a lot of statements by a lot of folks, the money fell from heaven tomorrow, to manage snapper, would that change this current department position? If it wasn't an unfunded mandate.

Secretary Melancon: If –

Chairman Yakupzack: Let's say, let's say Mr., Mr., the Honorable Mr. Bishop, I can't remember if he's a congressman or a senator so –

Secretary Melancon: He's, he's a congressman.

Chairman Yakupzack: – I don't want to mislabel him. If he said, no, I was just kidding', here's your money. Would that change, um how, how we view Congressman Graves' bill?

Secretary Melancon: If the Congress passed a law and it was put into effect and the money fell from the sky then that's what we would do because that would be the law.

Commissioner Courville: Okay. So I, I'm not asking' for answers on all those other questions, Patrick, Mr., Mr. Banks, sorry, maybe, maybe next month, or something' like that. I didn't give you obviously adequate time to prepare for any of those.

Patrick Banks: Thank you.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Sunseri?

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, I was wondering', I know this is no action item or anything but I'm wondering' if we could ask the department to maybe try to do something' in maybe trying' to get the groups together, the commercial fishing, the recreational fishing, the charter fishing people together, the department biologists and everything and get them in a room and see what might be able to come out of that, that could be good to go to the council with. I, I, you know, I, I premise this by saying' I'm a solutions guy and, I, I think that there's something' that could be hammered out where we could go to the council and make it happen. But you need to get the people in a room to go ahead

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and, and make it happen, and make, make this, because we don't have this Graves bill thing in hand. We got the council, that's who we've got to work with right now. So get the Louisiana guys in a room, along with whatever commissioners want to participate and, see, see what can come out of it that can be useful and to bring forward to the, the Gulf, Commission. That, that's a suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Any other, question or discussion on Agenda Item No. 14? Moving forward we have Agenda Item 15, to set the November 2016 meeting date. Looks like the first Thursday of the month is, November 3rd. Is that, appear to be fine for everyone? Okay, so moving forward we're, we're going to let the minutes reflect that we're going to have the meeting on November 3rd, that's the first Thursday of the month. We now have, Agenda Item No. 16, to receive public comment. I would like to remind you, that those of you who are going to leave early to, to please exit quietly so we can finish up this agenda. First up for public comment I've got Mr. Barry Rogers from Terrebonne Parish.

Mr. Barry Rogers: Good afternoon, Secretary, Commission members. I'm here to express concerns on the appointment of Bob Samanie to the Commission Board. He is the vice president of Lafitte Frozen Foods which has been known to import frozen shrimp and repack in Louisiana boxes. Louisiana, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries and the Seafood Promotion Board has spent millions of dollars on promoting authentic Louisiana shrimp. I see a conflict of interest between someone that imports shrimp and the State of Louisiana which is trying to promote our business. I've also had comments and meetings with you and spoke with you and you have spoken to me as a

fisherman from a processor that you hold my head down under water till I almost drown, you let me up for a breath of air.

Commissioner Samanie: *muffled noise*

Mr. Barry Rogers: Yes, you have.

Commissioner Samanie: No, I haven't.

Mr. Barry Rogers: Yes, you have. You might not remember but yes, you have. We are drowning. The shrimping industry is drowning. We have went through the worst year of brown shrimp season in history. We do not need someone like you on this Board that imports shrimp and puts it in Louisiana boxes. I'm not here to argue with you, I just have concerns.

Commissioner Samanie: Well, do you have any proof or documentation –

Mr. Barry Rogers: The man that works on the back deck –

Commissioner Samanie: You're making' slanderous statements –

Mr. Barry Rogers: I'm not making' a – The man that works the back deck of my boat used to work your dock.

Commissioner Samanie: You'll have to prove this one.

Chairman Yakupzack: Come on, let's do it.

Commissioner Samanie: Yeah.

Mr. Barry Rogers: I'm sorry, it's just the way I feel. I have concerns. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Rogers. Louisiana Shrimp Association,

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Acy Cooper. Again, we're going to limit comments to still on our 3 minute time.

Acy Cooper: How you doing'? Acy Cooper, Louisiana Shrimp Association. I have a lot, a lot of people calling' me and like I have to do what I have to do. A lot of fishermen are worried about which way ya'll going to vote when it comes time to open and close seasons. Last year we had a problem with open earlier, close late and they wanted the season open early and, later. And the processors wanted to open early. So, and they kinda feel that, and I aren't got nothing' against you personally, Mr. Bobby, that with that influence on the panel it may lean a certain way. So hopefully the rest of ya'll take everybody's in account when we ask, the fishermen come up and ask about a later date, take it into account. Just don't let one may sway ya'll vote one way or the other. And that's the main concern that they have. That last year we did have a big problem, they all wanted it closed, the fishermen wanted to go longer, the processors wanted to open early because of the smaller shrimp. They held it back, that did it good and it worked out right. So that's the main thing that we're concerned about. It doesn't sway ya'll vote and lean towards the wrong way. Thank ya'll.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Cooper. Next up, Dean Blanchard. Dean Blanchard? Next up, Warren Delacroix. State your name and address, please.

Warren Delacroix: Warren Delacroix, 1012 Helois, Louisiana. I happen to be – Mr. Melancon, secretary and Members of the Commission, thank ya'll for letting' me speak. I happen to be a member of the Louisiana Crab Task Force, I'd like to put a comment on a couple of different issues. First off, while Mr. Cresson is still here, if he's still present with the CCA we've had

some different discussions as ya'll know with the Crab Task Force and, and issues about over fishing' and the stock assessment. I'd like to open Wildlife and Fisheries and the secretary and Mr. Cresson to give us some type, and even you, Mr. Sunseri with the Oyster Fisheries some type of fin, finfish fishery, drum or sheepshead via trammel net or haul seine and I'm not asking' for it immediately but just get the Commission to come on board and have a group conversation. You said you are, you are, you know, you, you're trying', you'd like to get everybody to get along but that's an issue that needs to be resolved for your industry, especially with the oyster fishermen and especially our industry with the crab fishermen. Another thing I want to bring up is the recent appointment of Mr. Samanie to the Commission. He works for Lafitte Frozen Foods, Mr. Paul Poon who has been in violation several times of repacking' processed, foreign shrimp in domestic boxes. He was basically run out of Lafitte, now he's in Lafitte in Saint Bernard Parish doing' the same thing and I don't think it's a, it's a good deal for the State of Louisiana for this Board or the commercial fishermen or anybody in here to have somebody like that represent our industry and the fishermen of the state of Louisiana. Thank you.

Secretary Melancon: Mister, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Yakupzack: Secretary Melancon,

Secretary Melancon: I've had reports of, such comments would be made this week and I made several calls around to people to ask about what was being alleged. I found that it seems that the, the accusations came from a, one source, the industry has been bifurcated or worse over the years. Unless somebody brings some documents that are notarized to attest to what the accusations

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are I, I'll have to just say that I did not get a bad report. I did find out from one shrimp processor and their competitor that Mr., Samanie's company was one of the largest shrimp processors in the state of Louisiana, if not on the Gulf Coast, was heavily involved in, dollar wise, in funding the anti-dumping suits in the years past. It kinda, I guess the question that I, that it puts in my mind is how would a person who's putting money to defend importation, against im, illegal importations or why would it be putting money into defending themselves if they're doing the opposite? But I, I think that, it's, it's a sad day that, this kind of thing comes to the Commission but at the same time, if there's documentation, I think that needs to be presented and Mr. Samanie at some point in time will be able to, have a clear, clear, clear chance at serving if it's just alleged rumors. Thank you.

Commissioner Samanie: Thank you, Mr. Melancon.

Chairman Yakupzack: the final card that I have here, unless, I, Mr. Blanchard appears to be gone, I don't see him in the crowd, the final card I have is Ron, Mr. Ronald Coco from Moreauville, Louisiana with regard to Spring, Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area –

Mr. Ronald Coco: Yeah. Secretary, Commissioners.

Chairman Yakupzack: You got 3 minutes. You're the last one.

Mr. Ronald Coco: I'm going to cut it short, I'm going to cut it short. Spring Bayou has a team of, Spring Bayou Restoration Team that was formed in 2007. None of ya'll was on the Commission at that time. This is a varied group of people that get involved and they're very involved in Spring Bayou.

When Spring Bayou was going' down after the high water of '73 they got involved with it. First then they came Wildlife and Fish, they wanted to do draw downs. They were actually organized as a group of citizens against the draw down program. They came over here and challenged Wildlife and Fisheries to put grass carp. They worked with them, they still got denied, and they kept comin' back until grass carps were finally put into Spring Bayou. At the present date over 60,000 grass carps have been put in Spring Bayou. The sprayin' has continually gone and it has actually opened up the whole complex. There's 12, over 12,000 acres of land, over 40 percent in the summertime is usually water. In the wintertime, spring it's actually more. The problem now is alligators... People are fishin' in there. In the last 3 years the area has developed a lot. Years ago there was at least 25 bass tournaments on the lake, on the whole complex. It went down to one. The National Guard was the only one that's stayed with Spring Bayou. This year we went up to six tournaments. The fishin' was excellent in there, people were fishin' bass, brim, the Wildlife and Fisheries have actually stocked it with bass and brim also. But the problem is now the alligator population has spread all over this thing. People are going' fishing', if you're going to cast your line out there you better draw it in quick if you got a fish on the end of it because it won't get back to your boat. Just like you do with the alligators nowadays, these alligators are friendly. They'll come up right against the boat and stay there. I think at the present time, how many times you been, how many times you get them? Probably a hundred tags. People open frog season and go out there, they stop their boats, wait a few minutes, turn the light on, they count as many as 40 to 50 alligators in one little search, so it's very over populated. And they would like to see if the Wildlife

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and Fisheries could go in there and even make an estimate. They did call and told 'me that no surveys had ever been made in the area, all surveys are made down south. So this doesn't have nothing' to do with the coast, this has to do with Central Louisiana and they would like to see if the season could be extended or give more tags out. Actually by the first week of the season people are limited out over there. That's how big the population is. Now these people will be coming to the meeting. I was asked – They had a meeting last night and I was asked to come and bring this before ya'll. They will be coming' and, they are a determined group of people, they're not going to give up. So I mean the season's over with right now, it's something' to start thinking' about, something' needs to be done with this, population of alligators in this area. And so I mean ya'll got plenty of time to think about it and it'll be coming', like I said, they'll be coming' over here and coming' before the Commission to talk more about it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. –

Mr. Ronald Coco: And, and another thing, Johnathan brought up was the chronic, chronic waste disease, we working' to have a meeting' in Avoyelles Parish at the Ag Building on Highway 1. And we work with LSU and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and any other people that want to get involved in it. There was one held in Alexandria but it was held like 2:00 in the afternoon, people couldn't attend. So this one will be scheduled for a nighttime meeting. And it'll be targeted for Central Louisiana people to come in so to tell the people more about the diseases and hog control and everything also. And I will be letting you know and tell everyone about it and if ya'll want to come to it ya'll more than welcome to come to it, also.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Coco, I think Commissioner Courville has –

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, uh –

Chairman Yakupzack: – more questions.

Commissioner Courville: – I might weigh in on your, alligator, request, have you made a formal request of the department for a, a, a consideration –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: They called –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: for an alligator –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: several people, they were transferred back and forth to several different people in Wildlife and Fisheries.

Commissioner Courville: Let me, let me make a suggestion, obviously you've got staff here that can do a fine job of it as well but I would, so tag allocations occurring currently –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Mm hmm.

Commissioner Courville: so if you have a desire to increase your tag allocation in that region it needs to be done now.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Now? Okay.

Commissioner Courville: I would recommend that if you, have a chance to maybe visit with Mr. Edmond Mouton –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Yeah.

Commissioner Courville: and then he can direct you –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: We did, we did talk to Mr. Mouton.

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Commissioner Courville: He's in New Iberia but, if you wait till August, the August Commission meeting you, you might be a little bit behind schedule so, uh –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: They're waiting' for me to call them back to give them some kind of a response because, I mean they rang me twice since I've been here.

Commissioner Courville: I would, I would recommend that you make a move on it now.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Okay, I'll get with them on that.

Commissioner Courville: Because August will probably be too late because –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Okay.

Commissioner Courville: those tags will have already been allocated and assigned and it's a, it can be a challenge.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: They, they started a kayak program in the thing, they have, one, it goes up to 15 mile kayak trips on the, on the whole complex. When they first started people were going' in, kids were going' in and now the people are pulling' out, it's too many alligators in the complex.

Commissioner Courville: One, one –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: They don't want to bring their kids up in there with the alligators, with the size of the alligators they got up in there.

Commissioner Courville: One thing I do want to comment on and applaud the department, for their response in a lot of, in an increase in alligator, nuisance calls if

you will based on some, you know, obvious, the obvious activities that have occurred in the news. Fortunately, for Louisianans we've learned how to sort of adapt and live – Because we live in the midst of a lot of alligator habitat and there's a lot of folks that are making' a lot of, knee jerk type reactions. They see one and, and they, they all of a sudden are fearing' for their lives. The department has done a, an excellent job and if I'm not mistaken recently put out a press release on how to deal with alligator encounters.

That said, and I'm not saying' I'm advocating for or against it, but, a re-evaluation of, of the alligator population in the Spring Bayou area would probably be appropriate. Um –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Well, well that's what they wanted. If they could have somebody come in there and make an estimate of the alligators and study –

Commissioner Courville: And –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: study the situation and see what the problem is.

Commissioner Courville: And, and it may or may not result in an increase –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Yeah.

Commissioner Courville: in tag allocation but what I would hope the department would not do, and I've got the utmost confidence that they won't do it, is have a, a knee jerk type reaction, and have these incredible tag increases, the alligator recovery is a success story. Are there some nuisance ones? Absolutely. Or some inappropriate behaviors by individuals, almost taming them? Absolutely that happens. So we've got to find that balance. But at a minimum I have the utmost confidence that the

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department's staff will do a fair assessment and it may or may not result in a tag increase.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: But they just, they just, uh –

Commissioner Courville: But you need to do it now.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Well they just harvested one or killed one, 11-1/2 foot in a man's front yard.

Commissioner Courville: There is a good nuisance program in addition to –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Yeah.

Commissioner Courville: to potential increase in tag allocation. So, like I said, I think the department has the tools to address safety concerns of, of human life. But it, it, it, if you're going to make a move, you need to do it now.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: It has to be now because August is coming' up.

Commissioner Courville: You, you're going to, you won't have time if you wait till the August –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: I know.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Commission,

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: I mean –

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: I, I would do it now.

Mr. Ronald Cocoa: Okay. All right. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Mr. Co, Coco. Any further comment? With that I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Captain Samanie: So moved.

Chairman Yakupzack: Motion moved by Captain Samanie.

Commissioner Sunseri: Seconded.

Chairman Yakupzack: Meeting adjourned.

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August 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yakupzack: Good morning. Call to order this August 4, 2016, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting. Will you please join me in the Pledge?

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Ms. Brogdon, will you please call the roll?

Ms. Brogdon: Bart Yakupzack.

Chairman Yakupzack: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Chad Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Bill Hogan.

Commissioner Hogan: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Pat Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Bobby Samanie.

Commissioner Samanie: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Jerri Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Al Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Here.

Ms. Brogdon: Mr. Chairman, there are 7 commissioners in attendance. We have

a quorum. Secretary Melancon is also present today.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Agenda Item No. 4: Approval of the July 7, 2016 Commission Meeting Minutes.¹

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Chairman, I looked at them. It looks like it might be missing some of the supporting presentations that were in there so maybe we can pass on these today and consider them at next month's meeting if it would be ok to do that.

Commissioner Manuel: Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question or do I have to wait until next meeting?

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: There's some stuff on that CWD in here, I think, that's backwards. I wasn't here at the meeting but I listened and watched y'all. I got some questions. Should I just wait until your presentation, John?

Chairman Yakupzack: On that issue?

Commissioner Manuel: Yeah.

Chairman Yakupzack: I think that would be appropriate. We'll ask Ms. Brogdon to check those minutes on that matter before they're called for approval in September.

Commissioner Manuel: Ok.

¹ Attached hereto and made a part hereof for reference and for all other purposes as Exhibit 1

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Chairman Yakupzack: If that's the pleasure of this Commission? So, we'll take action. We have a motion by Commissioner Courville to pass the minutes for consideration in September upon completion. And a second by Captain Samani. Any public comment? All those in favor?

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion passes. Agenda Item No. 5: Commission Special Announcements and Personal Privilege. I'd like to turn the floor over to Secretary Melancon to introduce a new commissioner.

Secretary Melancon: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an honor. I'd like to extend on behalf of the Wildlife and Fisheries Agency of Louisiana a welcome to Jerri Smitko from Houma, Louisiana. Jerri is an attorney and the owner of Smitko Law, APLC in Houma. She is a graduate of Nichols University and Tulane Law School. She has one son, Maxwell. Among the many positions held since graduating Tulane Law in 1986, Ms. Smitko is Chair of the Louisiana Indigent Defense Assistance Board from 2006 to 2009, was on the Board of Directors for the Terrebonne Parish Indigent Defenders

Office from 2000 to 2006 and on the Board of Commissioners for the Terrebonne General Hospital Service District No. 1 from 1997 to 2009. Ms. Smitko has been a commercial fisherman for over ten years and owns her own shrimp boat. She was also special legal counsel to Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government from 1992 to 1998, Assistant Parish Attorney for the same body from 1988 to 1992. Ms. Smitko is a member of the American Bar Association, Louisiana and Terrebonne Parish Bar Associations, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. She served in the Louisiana Army National Guard, in the U.S. Army Reserves until her honorable discharge in 1985. Welcome aboard, Ms. Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: Thank you.

Secretary Melancon: Mr. Chairman, I don't have my Agenda. Do we have anything about The Conservationist on the Agenda?

Chairman Yakupzack: No.

Secretary Melancon: Alright. This will be another portion. I would like to announce today to the Commission and to the people of the State of Louisiana that we at the agency have made a conscience decision that it was time for The Louisiana Conservationist to return

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to the people of the State. Those of you that are my age and some younger and older will remember this great magazine and the contents of such. It not only promotes the things that we as an agency do, but it promotes the industries that we oversee and it allows for, will allow for, people, biologists, people that are doctors and masters that need to publish in a place that possibly help them and to share the information better or as much as possible with the people of the state of Louisiana. This will be passed around for you to take a look. This is the cover that is proposed and I'd like to thank the technical staff that is here at the Department for the great job and work that they are doing to help us get this thing off the ground. I'm excited about it. I grew up reading The Conservationist from front to back as a kid. Some of the stuff that the scientists put I didn't understand, but that's ok. I knew it was something in times I gleaned information where I may not have fully understood. I'm excited about it. I have yet to talk to anybody that was familiar with The Conservationist that wasn't excited or isn't excited about it. We're going to try. Our plans for The Conservationist are to print 5,000 copies, get those out to

the public libraries and the schools in the state for starters. Then we'll work on circulation and making sure that people of the state of Louisiana, the licensed hunters, the sportsmen, whoever get their Louisiana Conservationist. So with that, gentlemen, I hope that as members of the Commission at this time in history that this would be one of the things that you will be remembered for doing, for resurrecting, bringing back something that's an icon. Not only within the state but outside of the state of Louisiana.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Manuel

Commissioner Manuel: Do we need a motion to approve that? Because I think it's a good idea. I've been hearing it quite a bit.

Chairman Yakupzack: If you would like to do a motion that says

Commissioner Manuel: We could do a resolution. Whereas, we support bringing back The Louisiana Conservationist magazine. I move.

Chairman Yakupzack: A motion by Commissioner Manuel to issue a Resolution of support of this Department and working towards bringing back The Louisiana Conservationist publication. Do I have a second?

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Commissioner Hogan: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: Second by

Commissioner Hogan. Any public comment? All those in favor?

All: Yea.

Ms. Brogdon: {Audio Inaudible}

Chairman Yakupzack: I believe we will. I mean, it'd be silly of us not to ask the Chief his way.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion carries. Secretary Melancon, do you have additional items for personal privilege?

Secretary Melancon: Yes, sir, Mr.

Chairman. Thank you so much. I would like to say I made clear in the first statement this Department issued relative to management of red snapper, to remind those who have had the opportunity to review the statement and read in part. The Department's goal is to begin a collaborative dialogue with our State and Federal partners, to find a durable solution to these issues concerning management of the red snapper resources for the public good. Concurrently I'd directed the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff to develop a comprehensive plan to test how we can use new technology and the best available science to provide our anglers

with more access to red snapper. In addition, as I've stated before, the Department is already working through the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to set up a new management system for our private anglers, one that will give Louisiana the power to manage our fishery as we see best. Once this plan is fully developed, I plan on hosting a meeting which involves all interested stake holders to discuss in proprietary input on the items included in this plan. Again, my hope is for these stake holders to reach some sort of compromised position, that we can all go forward together with and finally bring to an end this long and protracted fight. I also ask for the Commission's support and cooperation with this undertaking, as well. Finally, I encourage all Commission members to attend the meeting of the Gulf Council so that you may have a better understanding of that process. Fortunately the next Gulf Council meeting will be held in New Orleans August 15 - 18 at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel. As soon as a specific agenda is published, I will pass it along to you. While I understand your schedules may not allow to attend the entire time, my experience is that

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Wednesday and Thursday are the most substantive days where the public comment is allowed and the policy issues are thoroughly discussed. Should any of you need accommodations in New Orleans to attend the Council Meeting, please contact Amy in my office and the Department will take care of this for you. Again I would like to thank the Chairman for this opportunity to address you this morning and I look forward to working with the Commission going forward on all issues that affect this Department. The red snapper issue is obviously a very contentious and complex issue. I want to begin by reminding everyone how blessed we are to have such incredible natural resource. It is our duty to protect that resource for the next generation. Along with the private recreational fishery that has a significant economic impact on the state, we are also fortunate to have a multi-million dollar restaurant industry where world class seafood is served every day, thanks to our hard working commercial fisherman. Finally we are blessed to have a charter for hire fleet in Louisiana who provide an invaluable opportunity for those who otherwise lack the financial resources to enjoy the benefits

of our natural resource. While the regional management system may be working for the commercial and charter for hire sector, it is badly failing our private recreational fisherman. A 9 day federal season is punitive and unacceptable. I think the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries can do better, contrary to inaccurate assertions made by some in the media. Let me be clear. I am and I will remain in favor of state management of the private recreational fishery. This is why we are currently moving forward at the Gulf Council to provide state management for the private recreational fishery. As I mentioned earlier, this is an extremely complex issue and with the number of technical and procedural questions from members from this Commission, it is my intent to set up an educational symposium for the Commission members and bring in those individuals who know the most about the issues and hold a one or two day educational symposium on red snapper management. This would be extremely beneficial to all members of the Commission. Not just the new members. While we do hold a new Commission member orientation to discuss the business operations of the

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Department and the Commission, I believe we need a more focused educational symposium on red snapper specific. I ask the Commission's support and cooperation towards this endeavor. With that, Mr. Chairman, I'm finished.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Secretary Melancon. Any additional personal privilege or special announcements by Commissioners?

Commissioner Manuel: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: I got a question. I get emails directly to me from a guy, Toby Gascon. Is that how you say it?

Secretary Melancon: Yeah.

Commissioner Manuel: What's the deal? Give me the background. Is he Special Assistant to the Secretary or is he an Assistant Secretary?

Secretary Melancon: Toby is a Special Assistant to me. I brought Toby in when the auditors and the Inspector General showed up because of the demands for information that were going to need to be provided as we went through the process of the, not the internal, but the external audits that were going on. The audits are finished but there's some other items that the Inspector General is pursuing. Toby's

charge when he first got here was to do that.

Commissioner Manuel: But he will continue on?

Secretary Melancon: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Manuel: I've never met him. I don't know if any other members of the Commission have. I'd like to see who he is at some point.

Secretary Melancon: Toby, would you stand up? I assume he's in here. He went upstairs? Ok.

Commissioner Manuel: Ok. Good deal. I'd just like to know who he is.

Secretary Melancon: Toby works, my first experience - there's Toby. Toby, Mr. Manuel says -

Commissioner Manuel: There's the ghost.

Secretary Melancon: I want to introduce y'all. This is Toby Gascon.

Commissioner Manuel: Alright. We know him now.

Secretary Melancon: I was a State Representative from District 60 which included Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Assumption Parishes and a portion of Ascension Parish back in the 80's. I got to know Toby's father back in those days and his brother and his family. Toby then became, for me more with the sugar industry as Toby worked on fishery issues, we worked on fishery

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issues for Congressman Billy Tauzin during the tenure when he was a Democrat and a Republican. Toby worked in the fisheries industry for several years, working for the Menhaden Industry. Then the last several years working as an assistant to Senator Norby Chabert in the State Senate.

Commissioner Manuel: I was just trying to find out. I hadn't met him then I see emails. He sends us emails. I thought he was a ghost. But I understand he's not a ghost now.

Secretary Melancon: That was my alias, Mr. Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: That's it for me.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ok. Any other Commission Special Announcements, Personal Privilege? Thank you. Moving on. Agenda Item No. 6: To Hear Enforcement Reports for July, 2016. Captain Skena. Welcome.

Captain Skena: Morning, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission. For the month of July, we had 27 boating incidents, 22 with injury, 5 fatalities. A case report, we had 879 written citations, 520 written warnings and 27 public assists. Inside your folder there are several news releases for some noteworthy cases that were made last

month. Here are a synopsis of those cases. Enforcement agents received a complaint about closed season shrimping near Caillou Boca in Terrebonne Parish. Agents responded and cited two subjects for using skimmer nets during the closed season. 1,713 pounds of shrimp were seized and sold at the dock. While escorting the vessel and the subjects back to the dock, the agents observed another vessel without navigation lights. When the agents made contact with this vessel, they observed three subjects with what appeared to be stolen items. The items were verified as stolen through the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office and the subjects were arrested. Additionally the operator was cited for several boating safety violations as well as outstanding warrants. Two St. Bernard Parish residents were cited for taking oysters from a polluted area, unlawfully taking oysters off of a private lease and failing to have written permission. One of the subjects was also cited for a log book violation. Agents were responding to complaints about fisherman taking oysters in polluted areas in several locations around St. Bernard Parish when they observed the subjects actively dredging for oysters in a polluted area.

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The illegally taken oysters were returned to the water. Agents seized the dredge and the vessel was seized on a Department seizure order. If convicted, the subjects could have their oyster harvester license revoked for up to one year, required to perform 40 hours of community service and only allowed to harvest oysters from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring device for up to one year. Responding to complaints to illegal shrimping in Bayou Little Caillou in Terrebonne Parish, agents cited 2 subjects for taking commercial fish without a commercial license, failing to comply with bait dealer permit regulations and using skimmers in a closed season. Another subject was cited in connection with this investigation for allowing an unlicensed fisherman to use a vessel license and gear license and failing to comply with bait dealer permit regulations. During the stop the subjects produced a bait dealer permit, commercial gear license and a vessel license belonging to another fisherman. Neither subject was able to provide the required commercial fishing license. Agents found that the subjects were well over the allotted two gallons of dead shrimp allowed to be possessed by a live bait vessel. Agents

seized and sold 628 pounds of shrimp. If convicted, each subject faces 40 hours of community service, criminal fines, possible incarceration, forfeiture of seized assets, one year of license revocation and only allowed to harvest shrimp from a vessel equipment with a vessel monitoring system. This concludes the Enforcement Report, unless there are any questions.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions for Captain Skena?

Audience Member: Can I ask a question?

Chairman Yakupzack: Sure. Will you come up and state your name for the minutes, please?

Roxanne Sevin: Roxanne Sevin. I'm the owner of RCP Seafood in Cocodrie and I'm owner of a live bait permit for probably the last 30, 35 years. I've just remembered about the monitoring system. As of three years ago we, I, myself and my brother, has a license and we had to put a monitoring system on the live bait boat to actually catch bait at night. So I'm just wondering if maybe somebody can let me know if there's, what is the law pertaining to the monitoring system. And I know this particular vessel he's talking about didn't have one and they were catching the bait at night.

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Chairman Yakupzack: I see Mr. Martin come up. I'll let him address your question.

Col. Martin: I can answer it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ok.

Col. Martin: The VMS requirement is still there if you're going to know what's; With a bait permit, if you're going to do it during daytime hours you are not required to have VMS, but anytime you are going to operate at night they still required to have VMS. The vessel that we caught in this particular case, they have gotten with the District Attorney's office and they have added that additional charge for them not having the VMS on that particular vessel.

Roxanne Sevin: Ok. I just wanted to be sure because it's cost us \$3,500 plus the \$60 a month that we pay for it. So I just want to be sure. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you, Ms. Sevin.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda Item No. 7: To Recognize the National Archery and Schools Program National and World Champions, Mr. Robert Strobe.

Robert Strobe: Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, Mr. Secretary. Thank you for allowing me some time this morning. Real quickly, I want to run through a few things. I know we have several new commission members since the last time that I spoke

to many of you about a year ago at this same time. Real quickly for those of you in the public, as well as commission members, that aren't aware we run our Archery in Louisiana Schools Program here, which is a portion of the National Archery in the Schools Program. It's a program that introduces students in grades 4-12 an international target style archery. This is taught as part of their in-school curriculum, which means they are getting it normally, as part of their PE class. So instead of going and playing dodge ball or basketball, they are going in and learning how to shoot target archery as part of their school day. This program has been a great success, not only nationwide, but also here in Louisiana. A big part of its success is that it is safe and fun and our administrators and our parents and our coaches love it because it teaches our students focus and discipline and helps build self-confidence. All those are attributes that we encourage in our youth today. I just want to real quick look at some numbers because although this program is here and pretty prevalent in the state there's a lot of numbers that people don't realize just how big this program is. The national archery in the schools program has 47 states in the

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United States, as well as 8 Canadian Provinces, 4 African Countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Mongolia and the U.K. are now involved in the Program. So it's even extended beyond the borders of North American to involve several other countries with more coming on board each year. Currently in the U.S., there are over 14,400 schools that are participating in this program, which sounds like a lot of schools but what you don't realize is that is less than 10% of the schools in the U.S. So that's really when you look at the next statistic that tells you about the number of students that we can impact. Currently, this past year 2.4 million students received the archery in the schools program. As a comparison you can see those next two numbers. Last year 2.4 million youth were in Boy Scouts as well as 2.4 million in Little League Baseball, so this program really is on a grand scale. It's not a small program. Currently here in the state of Louisiana, we have 164 of what we consider active schools teaching the program which equates to just about 20,000 students here in the state of Louisiana receiving this curriculum. Each year we are able to provide schools with assistance to get

the program started as funding is often the biggest hurdle. We are able to give out 20 equipment grants each year to these schools who need a little bit of help to get the program there. So far over the past 3 years we've distributed 51 total of these grants which is an estimated \$88,400.00 of equipment that we are assisting these schools to get. The way these grants work is basically we provide half of the equipment and they are required to come up with the money to provide the other half. Therefore the school has a buy-in and we're not just giving them equipment without them having some investment in the program. Couple of photos, these are a couple of schools that received equipment this past year. And there's many more out there like these schools. They range from rural schools with K-12 to schools that are in large urban populations that are elementary, middle school or high school level. In order to run this program in the state, we train what we call basic archery instructors who go through an 8 hour certification. Currently we have 840 certified based archery instructors here in the state of Louisiana, with 120 of those being certified already this year in

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2016. In comparison, last year we certified 169. We'll easily surpass that number this year. Our program is in a state of very strong growth. Last year we were awarded as the top gain in percentage of the number of schools in the U.S. This year we were third in the U.S. behind New Mexico and Iowa in the greatest percentage of growth. Each year the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hosts 3 tournaments. These are sanctioned NASP tournaments and they allow students to qualify to go to the national and the world tournament. This past year we had 584 participants at our South Regional, that's held in Alexandria, and 510 at our North Regional, that's held in Shreveport. Those statistics show that we are growing in all categories as far as individual participants as well as schools, with a respective of 22 schools at each regional, which is right at what we want. We want an even distribution of those schools. Another thing that we can highlight on this slide is really the gender participation. The great thing about archery and what's so many schools and school administrators like about it is it's not a male sport, it's not a female sport. It's a pretty close divide of both male and female students that are

participating in this program. At our 2016 State Tournament, which was held in Alexandria this past year, we had 822 participants. Again the breakdown of male and female you can see is a little bit more segregated towards the males but it's pretty close there in the center, and we had 37 schools attend that tournament. This year was our first year we added a 3-D element to the State Tournament, which was a big deal. This is getting kids that had just been shooting at bulls-eye targets in their PE classes, now they are shooting at 3-D animal targets. This is a secondary portion of the NASP Program that was introduced by IBO, International Bow-hunters Organization. We think it's a great way to help students make that transition from target archery to getting out there and hopefully either becoming 3-D shooters or, more than likely a lot of them transitioning in to bow-hunting or hunting in general. Two hundred eighty-one of those same participants that participated in the bulls eye shot in our 3-D, and this is just a photo of how that 3-D tournament so you can see that they're shooting realistic 3-D animal targets. It is still indoors and it uses all the same protocols for safety as the bulls eye portion does. Since inception of this

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program we've been working to build the ability to give away scholarships to these great young athletes who are participating. This year we were able to bump that scholarship level. This year at state tournament we gave away \$17,500.00 of scholarships and some of those scholarship recipients are going to be here today and we'll be introducing them. The top 3 male and female shooters in bulls-eye each received a scholarship. These are cash scholarships that are donated by sponsors of the program. These are outside organizations that see the benefit of what this program does for our youth and they're donating those funds to give back to the students. We also gave away \$2,500.00 on the 3-D side which was great to be able to do the first 3-D tournament and already be giving away scholarship money. Both the top male and female each received the \$1,250.00 scholarship. Here is some of our scholarship winners. Again some of those you're going to see here in person today. And some additional award winners from our State Tournament. After completing the State Tournament, teams and individuals can qualify to then move on to the National Tournament. The NASP National

Tournament is held each May in Louisville, Kentucky. That tournament the participation there also has continued to grow. This year at the National Tournament there was nearly 13,000 students who participated. Those students came from 41 states, as well as the District of Columbia. They also host the 3-D tournament there with just under 3,500 students participating there. We sent a strong contingent from here in Louisiana to National Tournament. One hundred ninety-eight of our students from 14 different schools in Louisiana took students to the National Tournament. One hundred ten of those also chose to participate in the 3-D. After competing in Nationals, students who qualify high enough may continue on to the World Tournament. This year the World Tournament was held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Not a bad vacation, either. We had 4135 as far as participation for the bulls-eye tournament at NASP and 1120 in 3-D. Of those 103 participants from Louisiana participated from 6 schools and 75 in the 3-D from 5 different schools. So what we're seeing is Louisiana although our program is much

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smaller than a lot of states in the Program, especially those surrounding us, we travel well. And there's a reason we travel well, we shoot well. These are some photos from the National Tournament of some hardware that our students brought home. I get a lot of questions we just had our coordinators conference last week and I get a lot of questions "What are they doing down there in Louisiana? What's in the water? What makes those kids so good down there?" And those are all questions that I can't answer. Those are questions for the coaches and for the kids. But I can tell you that these students are very dedicated for what they are doing. They take a lot of time, a lot of time that a lot of other kids are spending playing video games or hanging out with their friends or texting or playing Pokemon Go. And they are out there with a bow and arrow, honing their skills. We not only have teams that are placing at our National Tournaments, but we also have individuals that are scoring very high. Our National Tournament, Benton Middle School were National Champions in the Bulls-Eye. This is the first time that we've ever had a National Champion from the State of

Louisiana. We've had World Champions before but this is the first time for Nationals. Benton Elementary brought home a National Championship in the 3-D Element. We also had two individual award winners at the National Tournament, Madeline Lowry and Eden Old. They placed second and third place respectively, in the Elementary Division of 3-D. Worlds Tournament, we brought home even more hardware. And I say we as them. We've got Benton Middle School who are the World Champions in Bulls-Eye and 3-D, in both categories they were World Champions in the Middle School Division. Second Place, Benton Elementary in 3-D and Third Place, Kingston Elementary. Which is pretty amazing this is their first year in the Program and they're already bringing home awards at the World Tournament. We also had 4 individuals that received awards, individual awards at the World Tournament. Miss Emma Bunch is the World Champion Middle School at 3-D. Kaitlyn Misenheimer, Third Place Middle School 3-D. Aidan Haire, Third Place Middle School 3-D, and Kennedy Halsel from Kingston Elementary, Fourth Place in Elementary for 3-D. So out of those kids that we're

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sending we see that they're bringing home a good chunk of that hardware. I got some more photos to drive that point home. I want to take some time, we've got some of those students and their coaches here today. I'd like to bring them up and give them the recognition that they deserve. Like I said, they spend a lot of time when a lot of other kids aren't worried about being disciplined and being focused. And this is just a small portion today of this 20,000 students here in Louisiana that are getting the benefits of archery through this program. We really want to make sure that they are able to continue their growth, not only as archers but as the youth of our next generation. That they can continue to develop these skills and work on those. If I could, I'd ask these individuals to come up if they are present here. Miss Madeline Lowry, she is here. And Eden Old. Miss Eden. We got each of the students receiving a cup that has laser engraved the year of their accomplishment and what their accomplishment was. As you can see, she's got a stack of medals on. These kids have so many awards, so many trophies and so many medals that we wanted to give them something that they can use every day. So we hope that

they'll take this with them and have it as a reminder of their accomplishments. So we just wanted to say congratulations.

{Applause}

Miss Emma Bunch, I don't think she's present today. Aidan Haire. Kaitlyn Misenheimer. Is Miss Kennedy here?

{Mr. Strode continues to call up students and hand out laser engraved cups}

At this time I also want to recognize Benton Elementary as a team, as well as Benton Middle School. All of you that are here today, if you'll all come up. We want to recognize those participants as a team. Come on up. Each of these schools will receive, as well as this banner they can hang in their gymnasium, a pretty long list of accomplishments on that banner, they also will receive a target that they can use to help grow their program in their school.

{Applause}

Chairman Yakupzack: Excuse me,

Robert. Before you all take your goods and sit back down, since this is probably one of the larger groups to come up, can we get everybody to come up and I'll ask Secretary Melancon, if you'll come up. And the Commission if you don't mind. Let's take a minute and all

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surround these wonderful kids and document this incredible program and take a picture. If we can turn the lights back on.

{All Commission Members, Secretary Melancon, Students and Members of National Archery Schools Program gather at the front of the conference room for a group photo}

Robert Strode: And of course, it wouldn't be a complete presentation if I hadn't forgot someone. I skipped over Miss Abbie Rutledge, if she'd come up. She placed Fourth Middle School Girls at World.

{Applause}

Just in closing, I again want to thank the Commission for allowing me some time. I really do think that this program and what it's doing for our youth is really a great thing and I hope it continues to grow. We are adding new schools all the time and I really want to ask anybody, members of the public, members of the Commission, employees of Wildlife and Fisheries, if you know of a school or you have children or grandchildren, nieces and nephews who you think that this program would be really good for them, please reach out to us and we will reach out to their school. We would love to see that every school in the state of Louisiana have this program because some of the stories that

these coaches and these parents could tell you about what this program has done for their students, they'll make the hair on the back of your neck stand up, give you goose bumps and sometimes bring you to tears. This program really is something that I feel like we can do not only to help us here as sportsmen, as a wildlife agency, but also just as a society that we can give our students this opportunity to develop these life skills, that confidence, that focus that's really gonna help them for the rest of their lives and throughout their careers and their futures, whatever they go on to do. Last thing, we've got some tournament dates up there. All of our tournaments are open to the public. We would love to have any of you there, whether you have students shooting or if you'd just like to see it. We'll have two Regionals and our State Tournament again here in Louisiana as well as the National and World Tournament. Louisville, Kentucky and Orlando, Florida. We have some brochures on the back table, contact information on the back. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Again, thank you Commissioners. Mr. Chairman and the Commission.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Robert. I'll take a second on behalf of the Commission to commend you, the rest of your team and especially the administration for continued support of this wonderful program. Congratulations to you, as well and again to all of you here today. Agenda Item No. 8: To Consider a Declaration of Emergency Setting the 2016 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season. Mr. Jeff Marx.²

Jeff Marx: Thank you Mr. Chairman and Commissioners for a little bit of your time this morning. What we have for you this morning is to consider the dates for setting the fall shrimp season. So basically the Declaration that you have in front of you will set the opening date for the fall inshore shrimp season. It also gives the authority to the Secretary to delay or advance openings dates if biological or technical data indicate the need to do so. It also allows closure of inside waters to protect small white shrimp if enforcement problems develop. And it also gives the Secretary the authority to open any area, re-open any closed area and to open and close any special shrimp seasons that may be

necessary. Just a little background, this is the 2015 shrimp landings. You can see, we are in August. The majority of harvest of shrimp from August to the end of the year is primarily white shrimp. This is just a breakdown of our estuary basins, basically, and we have offices located in many of these places that go take samples basically throughout all of this. And just a big thanks to those guys. They go out and get the samples for us. It's an important job and it does not go unappreciated. The landings by basin, if you are working from west to east, there's Calcasieu, Vermilion, Atchafalaya have some small landings of white shrimp. The main bulk of landings are in Terrebonne and Barataria Basins. There's a little bit of landings there in Mississippi and Pontchartrain, as well. This is just a state wide glance at all the sample shrimp that were taken and measured through July 25th through the 28th, that's when samples were taken. So last week. The two highlighted areas of course is a 50 count highlight there and there is a basically a hundred count shrimp highlight. So you can see there is a good many that are below, but what we are going to do is breakdown each basin that goes towards

² Attached hereto and made a part hereof for reference and for all other purposes as Exhibit 2

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this statewide graph and I'm going to break it down by basin and sort of show you where some of these cross over dates are. If you look at the bottom so the top graph is in the Pontchartrain Basin, that is all the shrimp that were sampled in that basin, you can see the distribution of shrimp there. That's in count per pound. The bottom slide basically shows you the percentage of the, there's two lines. There's a hundred count line. That's tracking the percentage of shrimp that are bigger than a hundred count. According to these samples taken last week so we know how fast shrimp go so we project it, we walk them forward that growth and then we can see basically when they crossed. The green line is a 50 percent, that's where 50 percent is. The red line is a 50 count shrimp. ok. So we went to the Shrimp Task Force, their last meeting in July. We requested some input from them on what they would like to see. Generally we use a hundred count during the spring season. We also use it in the fall because any shrimp, white shrimp under a hundred count are illegal to possess basically. If your count is under a hundred, smaller than a hundred count as a whole, with mostly white shrimp you are not allowed to

harvest those. So basically we are looking at Pontchartrain. As of Monday, they had 50 percent of their shrimp were larger than one hundred count. So that means half of them. That doesn't mean they are averaging a hundred count. That just means that half of them are bigger than a hundred count. If we look at the red line, that's when we project that 50 percent will be over 50 count or bigger than 50 count, would be in the middle of the week of August the 15th, which would be 2 weeks from, a week and a half from now. So you're looking at the 50 count line would be August the 16th or 17th. Half of their shrimp will be bigger than 50 count. Moving on to Barataria. You can see Barataria as of August 1st, walking these graphs forward that their distribution of shrimp is a little bit toward the bigger side. The good thing that you do like to see, if you look to the left of the graph on top is some small ones, that means that we have recruitment. You are gonna have these waves of recruitment throughout the fall til you start getting some hard cold fronts that sort of halt that. But you can see the bottom graph, they are already at 75 percent or so above a hundred count. Their 50 count line,

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their red line, they would be crossing it probably today. That's again walking those shrimp forward. We're talking August the 4th or 5th when their 50 percent will be larger than 50 count. Terrebonne, same thing. We see a little recruitment there at the back but mainly they're already above the hundred count line. They're 70 percent larger than a hundred count. We're right now, as of Monday the first, only 20 percent were above 50 count. But you can see if we're walking those shrimp forward you're getting basically a cross-over, when they cross-over that 50 count line will be August the 9th or 10th probably when they would cross the 50 count, 50 percent larger than 50 count. Now we have a little, some water quality issues, things like that. A lot of rain over towards the west. Vermilion has a big number of small shrimp, you can see through that graph, a big large. They have a few shrimp that are getting up in size but not a whole lot. They're currently, as of Monday, at 30 percent over a hundred count. So they're still small. They cross over about the 19th of August, for a hundred count. You can look at the 50 count. If you use the 50 count for them, may not be until September if you wait that

long. Same thing for Calcasieu. Big numbers of smaller shrimp. They don't cross over until actually the 27th. So 50 percent of their shrimp will be bigger than a hundred count on the 22nd. Now that doesn't mean there aren't any big ones. You can see that graph and do it towards the right, they do have some that are 26/30, 21/25. But the majority are smaller, new recruits. We always like to have this graph to look at, as far as when the tidal cycle falls. The middle of the tidal cycle before the full moon is the 15th. That would be not next Monday but the next, and the 22nd is in between tidal cycles. Now looking at the blue graphs and sort of putting it into a percentage number. Looking at these graphs by basin. If you look at the Calcasieu Basin as of when these samples were taken, only 38 percent were larger than a hundred count. In Calcasieu, 9 percent were bigger than 50 count. So you're talking about a pretty small shrimp. That's last week numbers, correct. Vermilion, same thing. 31 percent were larger than a hundred count and 4 percent were above 50 count. Those are illegal. You can't possess those shrimp. If you were to take your trawl at that time, you'd be illegal. You'd have a possible

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citation. In the Terrebonne Bay system, 71 percent are above a hundred count and 21 percent are above 50 count. So that was up, that was as of last week when the samples were taken. Same thing with Barataria, 76 percent larger than a hundred count, 42 percent larger than a 50 count. And then lastly Pontchartrain, 53 percent were above a hundred count, so they just made the criteria, and 17 percent were above, larger than 50 count. So taking all of that in to consideration the recommendation from us would be to open the eastern part of the state, so from the Louisiana - Mississippi line westward to the Atchafalaya River on August 15th at 6:00 pm. Then we would open the western part of the state from the Atchafalaya River westward to the Louisiana - Texas line on August 22nd, the following Monday, at 6:00 am. With that, I'll take any questions that you might have.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any questions from Commissioners for Mr. Marx? Ok.

Commissioner Samanie: Do you want to hear public comments then we make motions?

Chairman Yakupzack: Absolutely. I was about to go there. As it's become custom on issues like the setting of shrimp season

we like to hear from the public before a motion is made. So at the request of Captain Samanie, we will hear from the public at this time. I have a few comment cards of folks that would like to speak. It's not an overwhelming amount. So we'll limit the time. We'll shoot for about 4 or 5 minutes each, if necessary. I'd like to ask you all to focus your comments on this agenda item and on the dates and how you feel about setting the dates. Keep your comments focused on that at the pleasure of the Commission. First up to speak is Mr. Barry Rogers of Terrebonne Parish. Mr. Rogers, come up. State your name and address.

Barry Rogers: Barry Rogers from Terrebonne Parish. 223 Wimberly Way, Houma, Louisiana. We totally agree with what Jeff says on the dates and times. Totally think it's the appropriate thing to do right now. I'd like to first, forgot, tell Mr. Melancon, good morning. Commission members, good morning. Sorry about that. Totally agree on it. Think it's the appropriate thing at this time and date and what's going on right now. Totally agree on it. Give thanks to Jeff and his crew for what they do for us. Thank you.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr.

Rogers. Mr. David Chauvin.

David Chauvin: Good morning. My name is David Chauvin. I live at 5248 Briarside Drive and I own and operate a shrimp company in Dulac, Louisiana. A lot of fisherman wanted to be here this morning. Some of them are out on the water, a lot of them were getting ready to get back out on the water. But myself and a lot of fishermen from my area would fully support Mr. Jeff Marx's recommendations. I think it's an appropriate date and we thank you for his time and his effort that he put forth in preparing his presentation. Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr.

Chauvin. Mr. Al Marmande.

Al Marmande: Al Marmande. 840 Vice Road, Houma, Louisiana. I'm here to thank Mr. Secretary Melancon for letting us know in a more timely fashion when they are going to open and close shrimp season. As a processor I feel that it's important that we know this, and shrimpers, so we can prepare our boats, have ice, fuel, get everything ready. Get our ducks in a row. Also would like to congratulate Ms. Smitko for her appointment. Once again I'd like to thank the Secretary. I know he loves

Louisiana as much as me, and we want to keep Louisiana number one. I thank you, Charlie. Thank y'all.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr.

Marmande. Mr. Craig Authemente.

Commissioner Manuel: Mr. Chairman, does that fellow shrimp in those clothes?

Craig Authemente: Craig Authemente. 105

Pecan Court, Houma. Owner of {Audio Inaudible} Shrimp Dock in Cocadrie. I go with Mr. Jeff's recommendation also. Especially with the 6:00 pm on the 15th and I think it's good.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr.

Authemente. Does anybody else wish to make public comment on this item who has not filled out a white card? Hearing the public comment, any further question or discussion from the

Commission? Commissioner Samanie.

Commissioner Samanie: Thank you. Several fishermen have called me about the 6:00 pm opening. I'd like to get the views from some of the people in the audience, how they feel towards a 6:00 pm versus a 6:00 am. Which would y'all rather? Some of the fishermen?

Acy Cooper: Acy Cooper, President of the Louisiana Shrimpers

Association. When it opens in the morning like that, white shrimp are mostly a night time shrimp anyway. So

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when you open in the morning we got a lot of disturbance. At night time coming, you got muddy water and it's just not right. Brown shrimp is ok but white shrimp, we definitely need the 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Samanie: Ok.

Acy Cooper: Take in to consideration that and we do want it at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Samanie: Ok. I just wanted to double check. I had gotten a few phone calls. Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to make a motion that we file a recommendation to the Department based on biology.

Commissioner Courville: Second.

Chairman Yakupzack: We have a motion from Commissioner Samanie to accept the recommendations of Mr. Marx and the Department to open the shrimp season on August 15th from the Mississippi - Louisiana state line westward to the Atchafalaya River at 6:00 pm and opening from the Atchafalaya River westward to the Louisiana - Texas state line on August 22nd at 6:00 am. We've heard public comment. If no other discussion or question, all those in favor.

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition, motion carries.

Jeff Marx: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Jeff, I wanted to thank you for the time you spent with me this week.

Jeff Marx: You're welcome.

Commissioner Courville: You're helping me gain a better understanding of this. Job well done.

Jeff Marx: Thank you. And that goes out to anybody. If any of you Commissioners needs to discuss shrimp, give me a call. I'll be glad to talk to you. If you've got questions. You probably won't have as many as Chad. Chad likes to ask questions. But that's good and it helps us get everybody on the same page. Thank you.

Commissioner Courville: Pretty good chance I'm not going to be changing either.

Joe Macaluso: In our handout today, the Declaration or Emergency lists the western portion as one half hour before.

Jeff Marx: This a draft. That's a draft.

Joe Macaluso: So this would be 6:00 am?

Jeff Marx: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Manuel: You're supposed to say who you are and your address.

Chairman Yakupzack: Agenda Item No. 9: To Hear Presentation on Cervid Carcass Importation Ban Notice and Summary

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of Public Comments Received on the Cervid Carcass Importation Notice of Intent. Biologist, Johnathan Bordelon.³

Johnathan Bordelon: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. I'm going to give you an update today. Basically on the comments that we've received up to this point. Also going to talk a little bit about what other states are doing. In addition to that talk about some of the things already done as far as preventative measures. First we'll talk about Carcass Importation Bans. There are currently 37 bans in the United States. Also 2 Canadian Provinces. All the states list certain exceptions. Basically those exceptions, for the most part, include de-boned meat, antlers, quarters not containing back bone and connective tissues, clean skull plates with antlers, clean skulls with tissue attached, capes, tanned hides, finished taxidermy mounts and cleaned cervid teeth. And that's basically if you look at all of them, they are basically going to include this language as an exception. This is where there is a few differences. One difference is 7 of the 37 states basically have a total ban. They do not allow

parts, except part exempted, to enter their state regardless of source. So 7 out of the 37, it doesn't really matter where the deer is coming from, it's prohibited. It has to be this specific parts listed. The other 30 states out of the 37 basically have a prohibition that prevents the importation of deer from CWD Positive States. And the question would be "Well how many states are CWD Positive?" And the answer right now is 24. So we are looking at 24 states across the country. Of course 2 of our neighboring states, Arkansas and Texas, are on that list of 22. I've received comments and I've tried to copy you with those comments as I receive them just so you have the opportunity to at least look through them as we get them rather than trying to go through them all at once. Basically I've received as 3 comments for support, 1 phone, 2 email. Also have received support from Louisiana Bow Hunters Association and the Louisiana Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association. Received a few neutral comments. Basically neutral comments, it is just that. Someone asking me basic question about the regulation for clarification and understanding. Not

³ Attached hereto and made a part hereof for reference and for all other purposes as Exhibit 3

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really pro or against, they just had specific questions. But the majority, in this case, were actually negative. We had 33 total comments received up to today. Obviously that may not be reflected in your packets because I basically updated the list through today while I provided the information a few days ago. Thirty emails, one. So email is the primary mode of commenting. Primary complaints involve possession requirements to other states. Reciprocal properties located within two states. Difficulty in taxidermy requirements. Concerns regarding the effectiveness of this regulation. And inconvenience. So those are the primary concerns. Answers to some of the primary concerns, one of the most important questions to ask is this really a threat? Is this cervid carcass being imported in to Louisiana, put out on the landscape, is it a threat? Can that lead to CWD transmission in our state? That's a very important question because if we couldn't answer that question then it really would be difficult to even propose something like this. But what we've learned and what we knew about CWD for some time now is that it can be transmitted that

way. And even in 1985, the Colorado Division of Wildlife attempted to eliminate CWD from a research facility by treating the soil and removal of that treated soil and that's just surface material. Restocking occurred after one year only to have the animals re-infected. Now there could be some that say well possibly those animals that were introduced could have possibly been exposed prior to, but what they've done beyond that is they've actually taken prions from soil particles at burial sites and basically inoculate animals with those and those animals do come down with CWD in laboratory settings. The answer is yes. Those prions are shed in to the environment, they are binding to soil particles, they are there, they persist, they are not going to break down in the environment. It's just a matter of an animal coming along, feeding along the ground and what we've learned in 2015 is something much scarier. There is actually transfer of prions through plant material. University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston have actually infected animals in a laboratory setting by feeding them contaminated wheat. That's the wheat grass, basically. The soil was contaminated,

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wheat was growing on the soil, animals were eating the plants clippings and they became CWD Positive. So we do realize just how dangerous and the threat that we are dealing with. So that is the first major question that we had to answer and there is many more case studies beyond the ones I'm presenting to support what I'm presenting here today. What are acceptable disposal practices? We talked about these. First being incineration. Obviously that's not going to be a practical application to a hunter or a taxidermist, a meat processor. That's something we would do as an agency. We have a suspect animal that we are testing. The first thing we do after the test, samples are secured, is we are going to get that animal incinerated. That will destroy the prions. I'm not talking about cooking. The temperatures that have to be reached are actually much higher than conventional cooking temperatures. The temperatures that we can reach through incineration will actually turn the animal in to ash. That is sufficient and has been documented as a way of killing or destroying the prion. Field dressing and cervid carcass parts left at the site of the harvest, obviously that's the best case because

you're not taking any infected material from the site of which the animal lived. And the third one of which is listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, its disposal of cervid carcass parts in an approved line landfill. So those are basically, those are the tools at play across the country when you're talking about dealing or destroying CWD. And the scary thing about it, even talking about destroying something, this is something that's not a lot but infectious. So it's very, very hard to understand that principle. But, because of that, that's why the threat from this is so great. Yes, sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Is it ok if we ask questions?

Johnathan Bordelon: Sure.

Commissioner Courville: My question is what is approved line landfill look like? How do you know the difference?

Johnathan Bordelon: Basically, it's a -

Commissioner Courville: How do I know the difference if I'm trying to dispose of an out of state carcass?

Johnathan Bordelon: That's a great question. Rather than using an approved line landfill, often they refer to a Type 2 Landfill. Then ask the same question,

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what's a Type 2 Landfill? I'm just going to give you a simple answer here. It's basically the landfills that accept the household waste. So your waste management companies that pick up household waste and distribute or bring it and put it in an approved landfill. That is the approved landfill that they are talking about. So someone wouldn't be able to designate their own dump or landfill or construct something itself. It would have to be something used in that capacity. And those landfills basically are the ones that are approved.

Commissioner Courville: Ok. And just a quick follow up. I know it's for informational purposes but at some point, assuming this were to move forward and if this is going to be considered, can we get a sense of cost for if I'm a taxidermist what that might cost if I have to do something separate and above normal household garbage collection?

Johnathan Bordelon: As far as the additional cost for, there are currently taxidermists that are utilizing dumpsters to remove that waste. Obviously some of the larger taxidermists that are in urban areas obviously don't have the benefit of dumping it behind the shop or in a wooded area nearby. They're already having to have a mechanism for

disposal. So that is currently going on with some. The percentage is unknown. I'll talk a little bit about CWD preventative measures in Louisiana. We've gone over this before but for some of you that may have missed or have joined the Commission since the original presentation, a live cervid transport is currently prohibited. So live deer cannot legally be brought in to Louisiana. Our agency put this in place in 1998. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry followed this prohibition with a moratorium in 2012. Obviously they regulate the captive cervid industry in Louisiana. So live animals cannot be brought in. Continued testing of high risk or target animals. So we're looking for high risk animals. These are animals near or adjacent or inside of pens. Animals are neurologic and roadkill animals. We are considering those as target animals. Since its inception of testing we've tested 7,870 animals up to this point. So we've tested quite a few animals without discovering any positives, fortunately. Obviously proper disposal and handling of cervid parts preventing infection or spread of the disease, that's through education. Proposed cervid carcass

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importation regulations aimed at preventing infectious materials from entering the environment, and that's the process that we are in now. We are basically proposing an added step of prevention and protection for our state. And obviously continued education regarding the risk of CWD. And that's really the key there is education of both hunters industry, agency to make sure that we are all on board, doing the things necessary to prevent the disease from entering our state. I have just a slide here of just the regulation. I'll leave it up. Basically no person shall import, transport or possess any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass part originating outside of Louisiana, with the following exceptions, de-boned meat, antlers, cleaned skull plates with antlers, cleaned skulls without tissue attached, capes, tanned hides, finished taxidermy products, and cleaned cervid teeth. Approved parts are de-boned meats transported from other states, must be legally possessed from the state in which it was taken. Approved parts and de-boned meats from other states must contain a possession tag with the hunter's name, out of state license number, address, species, date and

location of harvest. All cervids transported in to or through Louisiana in violation of the provisions of this ban shall be seized and disposed of in accordance of Wildlife and Fisheries rules and regulations. I'd be happy to take any questions. Yes, sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: Johnathan, is it the Department's opinion that CWD is gonna be here eventually, no matter what we do and we are just trying to postpone it?

Johnathan Bordelon: Well CWD has grown and spread across the state, obviously. One of the quick ways for it to spread has been transport of either live or possibly contaminated parts. It's been recognized that prevention is the only mechanism and tool. And can it be prevented? The answer is well that's really an unknown. There are a few states, only one in particular that has had success in containing the disease, and that's New York State. New York State's infection came from what was believed to be a taxidermy animal. The reason that being is that taxidermy operation was tied to a high fence operation on the same property. And as you would guess it those parts were being basically placed on the property

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where deer were living within that high fence enclosure. That is where their first and only CWD Positive popped up. You know panic ensues after that first discovery. They started testing the animals within the enclosure. Then they start testing animals adjacent to the enclosure. They got no more positives after that point. That area has basically been quarantined and has without captive cervids. Fortunately, and I don't know about fortunately or unfortunately but, to their benefit the animal was, the area was an enclosed area so you don't have the ingress and egress of animals across that landscape. You can control that. They are the only state at this time that has been effective and that has been more than 10 years. So when you look at it along that line, and they've been diligently testing since that time they are the only case of finding it right away and able to basically put a band-aid on it and stop the bleeding before it got worse.

Commissioner Manuel: Ok. If this thing passes and we end up with it here, are we gonna have an opportunity to increase the, change the rules so to speak? Or should we? Or once you get it, you got it so nothing to do.

Johnathan Bordelon: Well, actually Commissioner Manuel we do have a CWD Plan. We've actually had a plan for some time but we revised it in 2016. Basically because of some adaptations that other states have implemented that we feel would be better able to control the disease once it would be discovered. And with that, certainly, we would look to the Commission and to the Secretary to come to basically have emergency measures in place to prevent further spread within the state. That's basically what would happen. Disease pops up in the state, your focus then at that point becomes containment of the disease. You're doing a couple of things. First you're trying to determine prevalence of the disease in that location and then you're trying to find distribution after. And that's what we would do. And states that have it basically have importation rules within their own states that prohibit the movement of animals outside the containment zone to other parts of the state. They are basically trying to contain that one fire and keep it from turning in to 20 fires in that particular case.

Commissioner Manuel: Thank you.

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Johnathan Bordelon: Yes, sir.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Smitko.

Commissioner Smitko: Where is the disease located in Texas?

Johnathan Bordelon: In Texas? I do have a slide on the computer. Just bear with me. It's not really part of the presentation, but I can probably get it up for you. Ok this is a map of Texas here. If you look at the red, you look at far west Texas that's mule deer. That's in the wild population. Pretty low prevalence but it is there. There is also one positive mule deer in the pan handle. But the area of concern where CWD hit in 2014 is Medina County. Medina County is in basically San Antonio area. That's evident on the map. That's where it popped up. Now you notice to the east there is another red. That's a recent discovery in Lavaca County. That Lavaca County positive was tied to a movement. Basically Medina it's only found inside of an enclosure at this time. So you have a facility that's positive. The problem is they have trace outs that have gone all over the place. Over a thousand animals to be specific. But one of those trace outs led them to Lavaca. They go to Lavaca County, they test one of the trace outs, boom. Five more

positives. But what is the implication of Lavaca County, these positives? That one trace out to Lavaca hits positive. Well what happened in Lavaca since receiving those animals? Well they sent animals out to 29 other counties in Texas. So you see how quickly this can spread and get out of hand. So disease that takes a long time to move across the landscape can basically move overnight through human action. One encouraging thing in Medina, its multi-pens within the same large enclosure. It's found in 2 of those smaller pens and not in the others. They've been diligent. They've tested over a thousand animals on the free range adjacent to those pens with no positives. We are hopeful that they likely just caught it early before it really had a chance to proliferate and filter in to the surrounding environment. But it does go to show you the threat that's there. And the importation ban that we are looking to do, you're just trying to keep those infectious parts out obviously. It's the cumulative effort of everything that's being proposed and done now. And we do really have to look at trying to protect ourselves in this case. Other states are testing but we really are somewhat, you have to rely on

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the diligence of others to protect you. And in this particular case we're trying to do something to protect ourselves and the Louisiana deer.

Commissioner Smitko: And, just very briefly, is it in southern Arkansas, northern or spread out?

Johnathan Bordelon: Arkansas is a little different story. This is northern Arkansas, Newton County. Newton County is basically one county lower than the Missouri boundary. The circle that's circled in blue is their target area. The red dots represent positives. You can notice that most of those red dots are there. The scary thing with Newton and the scary thing with Arkansas, they had tested 7,000 animals since 2002. They had no positives. So you are thinking everything's ok, we are in the clear, then all of a sudden they had a positive cow elk from a hunter harvest this season. Once you have that positive you now have a place to look. So rather than spreading your target out across an entire state, they then begin to focus on that area where the positive occurred and that's where the blue line is drawn. When they started looking they have an idea to collect a certain number of animals. You are looking for statistical

significance so you want a representative sample of that area. Basically they got to about 250 animals and the prevalence rate reached 23%. At that point they just pulled the plug on it because if you kill 250, its 23%. You kill 250 more it's probably not going to change much. You have it and you have it bad. So what they did at that point is they are no longer trying to figure out prevalence. You are no longer trying to figure out how bad is it, you are trying to figure out how far has it spread. And that's what they are currently doing now. They really can't answer that. That's their new focus and their new direction that they're going in at this time. But it does just go to show you just some of the threat. The 23% prevalence, how long have they had it? No one obviously knows for sure but states that currently are positive now that have been positive for more than a decade don't have prevalence rates even approaching that. So it's conceivable that they've been positive for a couple of decades or more in that particular area. And that's some of the fear and that's some of what went in to this provision. Not provision but actual proposal. It goes back to trying to protect ourselves. We made this

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recommendation 2 years ago. Arkansas obviously would have been free and clear if it was only focused on CWD Positive States but, as you can see, we could potentially be allowing animals from an infected state to come in not knowing that they were affected. Thank you for your question, Commission Smitko.

Commissioner Samanie: I have one question.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Samanie.

Commissioner Samanie: Mr. Bordelon, I have one question. I'm not sure about it. In your professional opinion, would an educational program and proper disposal restriction suffice as opposed to a ban on imported cervid?

Johnathan Bordelon: There's been tremendous education efforts now across the country and there have been tremendous education efforts for some time. The difficulty with that is you just really are dealing at that point on public knowledge, understanding this and willingness to comply. The regulation obviously just gives you the ability to enforce those recommendations in the form of a regulation. So we feel it would obviously afford us the best protection.

Commissioner Samanie: Thank you.

Johnathan Bordelon: But education certainly is still important.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commission Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Johnathan, thank you and the rest of the Department for your patience with me and passing the information along to all of us with all of the comments.

Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you.

Commissioner Sunseri: I really appreciate it. It really helps me understand an issue and where we need to go from here. I wanted ask, do you have any idea what type of violation that you are going to be looking at if this proposal becomes a regulation? If people are found to be importing cervid pieces and parts of carcasses.

Johnathan Bordelon: The penalty would be set by statute and that is something that would be outside of our division. So we would not as a division, Wildlife Division, be involved in that because it is actually set in statute and possibly our legal section could expand on how that process would work. It is something outside of our shop in this case.

Colonel Broussard: That's correct. The way it stands now, Commissioner Sunseri, is that it's a Class 2 the way the regulation would be assessed.

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Commissioner Sunseri: Wouldn't you think you'd want to raise that if you'd want to truly deter these animals and carcasses that have the problem so that you'd really have the deterrent?

Colonel Broussard: Certainly think that would be proper. The issue is that it would require legislation and would require legislators to have to consider that to be able to increase that class level of violation.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank y'all very much.

Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: If I might chime in on Commissioner Sunseri that I think that at that point, assuming we get there, would it be appropriate for this group to encourage the legislature to impose stronger penalties? I think I'd be in favor of that assuming this thing passes.

Colonel Broussard: I certainly think that's within reason, Commissioner Courville.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any other discussion or questions on Agenda Item No. 9? I do have one public comment card with regard to this item. Jackie.

Jackie Achee: That's me. Hi.

Chairman Yakupzack: Hi. Will you please come forward?

Jackie Achee: Hey guys. How y'all doing?

Chairman Yakupzack: Hi.

Jackie Achee: I've been a hunter and fisherwoman myself for quite some time. When we were younger and the kids were in school we couldn't but I want to ask y'all a question and in Mr. Bordelon's presence, he's the biologist. Do y'all know who Dr. Kroll is? And I realize 37 states that we are doing what they're doing with CWD. My question to you is not EHD worse for the deer, for the cervid, than CWD? And if CWD was this bad we'd have the countryside, the landscape would be covered dead bodies with CWD. And since there is no prevention, right? So my question to y'all is if another nationally, well known biologist. I'm trying not to be nervous. Had said hey, CWD isn't a disease that needs to be monitored but there's other diseases that are far worse for the deer. In other words, EHD does actually from 7 days the cervid goes down. But with CWD it's like a man having prostate cancer. That deer may get CWD but it may not die with CWD. And all the states that when the first mule deer was found in 1967 to have CWD, nobody or nothing vaccine you can do for the deer. There's landscapes not littered with CWD dead deer. We're allowed to eat deer that

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supposedly have CWD. They're telling us all that it's safe to eat. That's been going on for 50 years and there has never been a scientific peer review study in the past 50 years on cause and effect of CWD. And I'm not saying that CWD is not bad but it's getting to the point now that I think the whole country ought to accept that you got it. And you're going to start piling regulation on regulation and anything that you do isn't going to prevent it but yet you know you're gonna get it. A lot of the states that have CWD they still have deer that carry it, they don't die from it. Their landscape is not covered with it, Mr. Bordelon. So had you talked to Dr. Kroll and have you discussed with him what his studies have done to the have not been a peer reviewed scientific study? Have you reached out to him to say what made his opinion to be? Could y'all not maybe get another nationally recognized biologist and have a discussion with him and say, you know, if there's no cure but yet every time they've put a ban on something being imported. The problem in Arkansas is they brought in CWD elk that, I mean they brought in elk from the Rocky Mountains back in the 80's, and Dr. Kroll's pretty sure that they had CWD

all along they just something they hadn't monitored it enough to really find if they had it or not. When they got it of course then they panicked. I'm trying not to be nervous. I'm not here to be antagonistic.

Chairman Yakupzack: Miss.

Jackie Achee: I'm just saying that there's maybe some other info out there. And y'all are gonna do what you're gonna do. I just would like to see everybody going forward if you do find that you do have CWD in this state that you don't pile on regulation on the hunters because if you can eat the deer and especially free range deer, unless you are gonna pen them all in, the free range deer are gonna go where they're gonna go. And since it's in the ground, sometimes a bird might take the packaging somewhere. You know what I'm saying, Mr. Bordelon?

Chairman Yakupzack: Miss, is it Achee?

Jackie Achee: Achee. It's Cajun.

Chairman Yakupzack: Achee. I'm

sorry. Yakupzack is Polish Cajun, too.

Jackie Achee: My big question is there, and I know this. And y'all are great. It's just that he says in Arkansas they got so panicky instead of just kind of calming down, looking what's going on. Up in Wisconsin where they had this, supposedly these huge out breaks

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everywhere, they've also had massive new trophy deer come in. There's EHD worse than CWD, by far. And as we go along here, more and more where they got regulation going to be piled on the hunter where. Like they said in Newton County where they first found it, they can't even, hunters up there they can't transport their meat. If they live down south, down south to where, because they're scared it's going to get all over the place. But y'all it already is everywhere.

Chairman Yakupzack: Yeah. I'm going to stop you.

Jackie Achee: I'm done.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you for coming. You don't appear nervous. You've done a great job. We have to have comment from the public and we appreciate that. What I want to recommend is that you get with Mr. Bordelon after the meeting. The Commission recognizes your opposition as we've had a bunch of opposition on this issue and I can assure you we are going to consider it carefully.

Jackie Achee: My opposition is that to make sure that you do it the right way. Everybody that's, it's been ongoing since the 60's when it first

found anyway. And a lot of the elk and mule deer population were lost.

Chairman Yakupzack: Again, thank you for your comments. We'll be interested from Mr. Bordelon on it further. Any other question or comment on Cervid Import Ban? Hearing none, I'd like to move to Agenda Item Number 13 at this time and recognize that our U.S. Congressman for District 6, Garrett Graves, is here and would like to make a couple of comments and is limited on a time schedule. Thank you, for being here today.

Congressman Graves: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today. I wasn't planning on coming and I kept reading more information about comments that were made at the last Commission Meeting. I know your job is critically important. I know most of you are here because of the pay you get for doing this but, seriously, your job is to maintain the tag line that Louisiana is a Sportsman's Paradise. That's your job, effectively. To make sure that we have sustainable resources for generations to come, for people to enjoy just like we have and our ancestors have. At the last meeting of the Commission, a number of things were

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said that I think are completely inaccurate. And your job is to make decisions on behalf of the State and our natural resources and I want to make sure that y'all have accurate information that you are acting upon. When I was a child, we used to be able to fish for red snapper year round. And as you know, in 2014 it was 9 days, 2015, 10 days, this year 9 days with a 2 day weather exception. That infringes upon the Sportsman's Paradise. So I didn't come up with an idea. What I did is I took an idea that the five Gulf States reached on their own and we took that and we introduced it as legislation. I got to tell you, Mr. Chairman, whether it was our bill or someone else's bill, it doesn't matter to me. The fact is that we got a major problem in regard to our resources and the access to red snapper for folks in the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast and this is a solution. And the five Gulf States don't agree upon much. The fact that they came to consensus on an idea I thought was commendable and we introduced that solution. The bill was introduced over one year ago, over one year it's been out there in the public domain. We had a conference call on April 6th of this year with staff from the Department of

Wildlife and Fisheries. It was the only conference call; it was the only discussion we had with the exception of one other which was a meeting on May 9th of this year. Now, in both of those discussions or meetings, it was clear to me that there was a degree of discomfort on the part of the Department with our bill. However, in discussions we attempted to probe those concerns and it was clear to me that the bill had not been read. So to actually articulate concerns, because we asked over and over again about specific concerns and it was clear that the bill had not been read so to articulate concerns would have been difficult. I called the Department about five or six days before we marked up the bill. We marked it up on July 15th, if I recall correctly, of this year. I called the Secretary to let him know that the bill was scheduled to be marked up and, once again, to solicit input from the Department because, as I've said numerous times it doesn't have to be our bill it can be an administrative solution, it can be somebody else's bill. This isn't a partisan issue, Mr. Chairman. We have Republicans and Democrats, over 40 of them, from around the United States that are on our bill. In fact, the lead co-sponsor on our bill is Cedric

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Richmond, a Democrat from New Orleans, because this is a big deal for Louisiana and he recognizes that. We have Democrats from Mississippi, from Texas and other states on the legislation as well, on the Gulf Coast. Under the bill, the State prepares a red snapper plan. They prepare it and they submit it. Other states can't force a plan on us. The states submit the plan, they prepare the plan. The bill requires public participation. In addition to written comments, the bill explicitly requires that public meetings occur in each of the five Gulf States. They have to occur. And because, effectively, the jurisdiction is actually under you, because of the Secretary and the Department being the one who prepares the plans, this venue can serve as a monthly meeting where folks could provide input of the preparation and limitation of a plan. The bill requires that the best science be used to ensure we sustainably manage the Fisheries. And the plan is considered by the five Gulf States and is approved or disapproved. Importantly, for three years the commercial fisheries continue to be managed by the federal government; for the first three years they continue to be managed. The

transition of the recreational fishery is only contingent upon a gulf management plan or state plan being approved. Mr. Chairman, there was no unfunded mandate. Period. Other states cannot force a plan upon the state of Louisiana. Anything to the contrary is absurd. To suggest that me, that Congressman Cedric Richmond, or other members of our Congressional Delegation, all of which support the legislation, with the exception of one who has not articulated a position we would never jeopardize that and give away Louisiana's resources to the control of the other Gulf States. That's absurd. One thing that I think is really important is in the last meeting there was a lot of discussion about this alleged 10 million dollar cost to...

Yolanda Martin: Point of order, Mr. Chair.

Point of order. I'd like to adhere to the order of the day and just receive this as a public comment and no consideration by the Commission.

Congressman Graves: Mr. Chairman, if I can.

Totally inaccurate information has been given to this board in regard to our bill, something that this board has to make decisions on. I think it is awful to allow this board to continue to operate under

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the assumption the information they
have been given is accurate

Secretary Melancon: If I may.

Chairman Yakupzack: Secretary Melancon.

Secretary Melancon: This is exactly the
reason I asked what I asked for today.
So we didn't have poor Pinocchio
speeches. And we didn't get into this
kind of stuff that we have.

Congressman Graves: I'm sorry. Mr.
Secretary, did you just call me a liar?

Secretary Melancon: Excuse me, sir. I've
been recognized now. Yes, sir.

Congressman Graves: You just said that
I lied.

Secretary Melancon: We tried to contact
you five times from our office before.
This is the thing that I was trying to
avoid.

Congressman Graves: Wow.

Secretary Melancon: This is exactly what I
was hoping to not happen.

Congressman Graves: So Mr. Secretary, it's
okay for you to come here and tell
things that are inaccurate but I am not
allowed to come and set the record
straight?

Secretary Melancon: We spoke with you.
We called you about five times before to
talk with you, Toby spoke with you for
an hour and a half on the phone, we met
with you in the office, you came in there

and you said I have no prior authorship,
let's talk about the bill. The first
question I brought up, you started
explaining everything to me, everything
I didn't understand about the bill.

Congressman Graves: Sure.

Secretary Melancon: But we did read the bill.
I'm afraid this is not Obamacare. We
read the bill. This is not what I want to
discuss. What I want is for every one of
you, and he can come at the proper time
and be part of the educational process,
where everybody's in the room having
the discussions so that no one can have a
say and say I said this without there
being a rebuttal and the discussion. I
would ask that we move on.

Congressman Graves: That's exactly what I'm
trying to do is provide the rebuttal right
here because you provide inaccurate
information in this room.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Secretary
Melancon. A debate here today is
probably not going to be productive for
this matter, but what I would like to do,
certainly, is to allow Congressman
Graves to wrap up his comments and to
move on with the agenda and
recognizing Secretary Melancon has
invited Congressman Graves to be a part
of the solution that Secretary Melancon
proposed earlier today in terms of some

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extra meetings, informational meetings.

So, Congressman Graves?

Congressman Graves: I will briefly wrap up and thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bill it was stated in here previously again the ten million dollar cost, and whether that number is accurate or not I have no idea but I can tell you the number is significantly different than other states and provided, however the base text of the bill explicitly distinguishes stock assessment, research and management. There are three separate things. While the amendment by Chairman Bishop does affect management cost, it does not implicate stock assessments or research which are different categories. Therefore the federal government will continue to provide those. And as a matter of fact just to make sure that I was accurate in that assumption, I went back and met with Chairman Bishop and sat down and had a thirty minute meeting with him where he agreed to put it in writing if that would be helpful as to what his intent was. Most importantly, let me just be clear on this. Chairman Bishop supports the bill. He voted for it. He supports state management and he has tried similar things in his State related to Wildlife Resources. He is not opposed to the bill. It was not a killer

amendment or anything else and

allegations to the contrary are completely uninformed and absurd.

We're going to continue working. This is the second step in the process. It still goes to the House floor, the Senate committee, the senate floor. The way this process works is people provide input, which is why we repeatedly solicited input from the Department. The reality is this. At the April conference call, concerns were expressed. At the May meeting, concerns were expressed. To now blame opposition to the bill upon an unfunded mandate is simply not accurate because there was a clear bias against the legislation prior to this ever becoming an apparent issue. And so I stand here and absolutely remain open to ideas, solutions, suggestions and I don't care who solves this problem but the status quo is unacceptable. We have repeatedly reached out to the commercial industry, offered multiple solutions and they have refused to come to the table. And so we are going to continue moving forward with this until a better solution comes forward. Because I'll say it again, the status quo is completely unacceptable. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I want to make note. Under

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the Oil Spill Settlement that I helped negotiate, there is 350 million dollars set aside for adaptive management under the Gulf Environmental Benefits Fund, under the Restore Act and other adaptive management programs.

There's 265 million dollars available for region wide and open ocean assessments and there are tens of millions of dollars more through what is known as Bucket Four of the Restore Act. So even if it was accurate that these data collection and research was being put on the state, there are hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenues that are available to this Department as part of that settlement that we negotiated. Again, I want to repeat, while it's not, I also want to state the fact that hundreds of millions of dollars in new research funds and data collection funds are available to the state of Louisiana under the BP Oil Spill Settlement. I'll wrap up there, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure y'all have accurate information and if you have any questions I'd be more than happy to answer them. I do appreciate the opportunity to come and address the Commission.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you

Congressman Graves. Commissioner Sunseri.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you Mr.

Chairman. Hi Congressman Graves.

How are you doing today?

Congressman Graves: Doing well. How are you? Congratulations.

Commissioner Sunseri: I just want to ask a question. I'm new to the Commission. The subject matter is new to me. I've not been part of the Gulf Council and all of that and those discussions that have taken place over the years that you're discussing today. As a practical matter I'm just going to ask a question because, as a guy who is from the Ninth Ward from New Orleans, I started thinking about you got nine days to be able to fish. But only nine days and they pick them. And they could be terrible days. What would be wrong with like a tagging system to where you had 18 tags that you got that you could go out 365 days a year and you would get those tags to do it? I'm just asking a question. This is new to me. I don't know anything about this subject matter.

Congressman Graves: I think there are all sorts of discussions we can have on ways to better manage the species and to better provide access to the fishers. And I think that the stock assessments are wholly inaccurate which provide for bad allocation numbers which result in bad

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numbers for commercial, for charter, for recreational. We've got to have better science. And right now, what happens as a result of the fee increase that the recreational fishers agreed to is, the recreational fishers are paying for the science at this point, or paying for the State science to the tune of 1.7 or 1.8 million dollars, whatever it is, per year. And so you can't have discussions if people aren't even willing to come in to the room. So I can sit here in a vacuum and develop solutions all day long or you and I can as well. But I think it's important that we all sit down at the table, talk about different options. But I want to reiterate, the status quo is completely unacceptable. The other four Gulf States are clearly supportive of the bill in its current form and we need to continue having discussions to come up with a good solution.

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, if I may. That's what I recommended at the last meeting. That we have a meeting of those people within the recreational, the commercial, the charter, the members of this Commission and the Department to try to sit down at the table and hammer out something. That was what I recommended. Not knowing, this is all new subject matter to me. I'm just a

guy who is trying to solve problems. And I agree with you. It's best to sit down with all players and get something done. Let's not fight over this. We've got to do what's best for the citizens of the state of Louisiana more than anything. More so than the other Gulf states, definitely for the citizens of Louisiana. All of them. So that's going to be my recommendation again. That we have a group come together of the recreational, the commercial, the charter fishing people, as well as the members of this Commission and the Department that manages the Fisheries and see what we can come up with.

Congressman Graves: I appreciate your commitment to a solution and I certainly look forward to working with you.

Commissioner Sunseri: Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Commissioner Sunseri. Any other questions?

Commissioner Manuel: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: Congressman, I appreciate you coming to spend time here. I know you got a busy schedule. And I appreciate the additional information. I just hope that our Department did not leave something out

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when they presented. I wasn't here last month so I'm not sure all the information that was presented. But that's some new information that I've gotten today. I would hope that our Department would continue to give us all the information, both sides, where we could make a determination. That's all I've got thank you. Thank you for your time, too.

Congressman Graves: Thank you
Commissioner.

Jackie Achee: Can I ask one question?

Chairman Yakupzack: Well you -

Jackie Achee: Are we the only state that is bucking, not going along with the other 4 states? Are the other 4 states already? Cause this issue about the red snapper {Audio inaudible}

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank -

Jackie Achee: {Audio Inaudible}

Yolanda Martin: Point of order, Mr. Chair.

Jackie Achee: {Audio Inaudible}

Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Achee. Did I say it right?

Commissioner: Achee.

Chairman Yakupzack: Achee. No. You've done great. I think Congressman Graves has already answered that question. If you want to take just a quick sentence to answer the lady and then we are going to move on from this issue.

Congressman Graves: The other four states have clearly expressed support for the legislation in its current form and in its previous form. From what I understand and from what I gather there may be a separation between the Commission's position and the Agency's position if I can perhaps establish that distinguishing factor. But look I want to apologize to you all. I apologize for talking over earlier and for my tone. I want to tell you that I've actually known Secretary Melancon for probably close to 20 years. I have never in my life had any type of adverse experience with him ever. I've never in any way had any situation where I think he was being undishonorable or anything else. I think he's a good guy and I'll tell you I'm scratching my head trying to figure out what in the world's going on right now. So I apologize.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you
Congressman Graves. To conclude Item 13, I have one additional public comment from Mr. Ronald Coco, Avoyelles Parish, on feral hogs and CWD. Would you like to speak? We can conclude this Agenda Item? Sir?

Ronald Coco: {Audio Inaudible}

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Chairman Yakupzack: No. To compliment the Congressman's request, I rearranged the Agenda which is perfectly fine.

Ronald Coco: Last month I told you we would have a meeting in Mansura at the Ag Center for the Chronic Waste Disease and for the Feral Hogs. Johnathan was there, him and Dr. LaCour did a Chronic Waste Disease. The main question people was wondering about is if all the states don't have the same rules, how do I leave from one state and go to the other without breaking their rules and not having them take my deer away from me? Or elk or whatever they killing. Is there any way it can come through all the states and have this one general rule for transportation of these animals through the states? I know like Arkansas a lot of people told me they hunted like in Missouri to come back they couldn't come through Arkansas last year. They had to go around through Oklahoma or go back the other way around because they couldn't come through the state. That's one of the basic questions the hunters and the people going out of state, they want their opinion on that.

Chairman Yakupzack: I'll respond to your comment just briefly in this way. And I encourage you, as well, to speak with

Mr. Bordelon after the meeting. I know that members of this Commission asked that very question. They are very interested in the regulations of the other states that require them. That information has been provided and the Commissioners are reviewing it in preparation for further consideration of this NOI. So I don't know the answer to your question but it is being considered.

Ronald Coco: I see y'all are going to have meetings to carry on.

Chairman Yakupzack: Yeah.

Ronald Coco: For this {Audio Inaudible} disease. Also I handed y'all the new regulations from the Ag Department about the feral hogs to have the permits to transport these hogs and to have quarantine pens to keep them in. This is information that was given to us Thursday night. And I brought it to y'all. Y'all can study it. I've given some to the Secretary and everyone to study these new regulations. I don't know. Y'all are preaching no transportation and they're talking letting them transport them so. That's between y'all and the Agriculture Department. You all have the rules so I gave it to you, you can study, maybe next Commission meeting. Or maybe if y'all do set some meetings up, talk to the

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people about it. And y'all did have one newsletter that came out that a lot of people was very upset about, about the water quality. These animals around the Alexandria area. They've tested 40 sites around Kisatchie and all that. And around Alexandria area where they had e coli, salmonella and different diseases that these hogs that carry. That was an eye opening thing to the people. When they read this, it came out in the paper and they was wondering, you know, what effect did their animals and everything it had. I think {Audio Inaudible}. These diseases from these hogs are effecting all the animals around the source. Squirrels, raccoons, everything. It goes even to the migratory water fowls that come in to these areas, the contact areas. So this is starting to be an eye opening thing. I don't know how you are going to solve it or what but it's going to lead up to a big decision people are going to have to come with trying to control these wild hogs.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. Coco.

Ronald Coco: They are just spreading that much disease around.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. Coco. I want to point out that the Department worked very closely with the Legislature

this year and created, established a Louisiana Hog Task Force to try to focus in on that exact problem. The Department even, through Secretary Melancon, provided committed to some funding in that regard. And already had funding. So thank you for your comments and

Ronald Coco: {Audio Inaudible}

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you. Agenda

Item No. 10: To Consider Resolution to Add Property to Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area. Biologist, Tommy Tuma.

Tommy Tuma: Thank you Mr. Chair, Commission Members. Actually I'm not going to be presenting the formal Resolution. I'm just here in an advisory capacity to let you know that the Department, the U.S. Army has made available an additional 23,000 acres to be included and managed as part of the Peason Ridge WMA. For those who are not familiar, Peason Ridge WMA is a 51,000 acre WMA in Vernon, Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes. We are entered in to an agreement with the U.S. Army to have it operated as a Wildlife Management Area. Peason Ridge is a little different because they also use it as the Fort Polk Training Grounds so it makes the Resolution a little muddy

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when we're putting it together. Because not only do users have to abide by our Department's WMA's self-clearing permits, you also need a daily military clearance permit and they call the night before. The U.S. Army provides a phone number which is in our hunting regulations. You call the night before and they tell you whether the WMA is all open, partially open or some areas are just closed because the military training exercises. So with the inclusion of this property it will be 76,304 acres and I will be coming next month to present the formal resolution. I was just giving you and the public a heads up that we are going to have a pretty substantial amount of land be added to Peason Ridge should this Commission approve the Resolution next month. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Yakupzack: Thank you Mr. Tuma. Any questions or discussion from the Commission on that item? Agenda Item No. 11: To Hear and Consider Suggestions for Public Hearing Dates for Cervid Carcass Importation Ban. Mr. Bordelon.

Johnathan Bordelon: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Technical difficulties. Thank you gentlemen. Yes, sir. Basically with the Proposed Cervid

Carcass Importation Ban Public Meeting Schedule, the dates, times and locations are already listed. Basically this is going to go in to the public registry on August 20th, and because of that Public Hearings must be held 35 - 40 days after it goes in to the registry. That's required by the Louisiana Administrative Code. So because of that we are kind of tied to those specific time frame and dates and that's the dates we were left with. We picked locations obviously southeast, south Louisiana, central and north Louisiana, at this time. And we'll do a news release to make the public aware of these dates. Any questions? Yes, sir. Four venues at this time.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: Mr. Bordelon, run those dates. So currently we have a Notice of Intent that's been passed by this group, correct?

Johnathan Bordelon: Correct.

Commissioner Courville: And we are in the comment, amendment, potentially period up until what point again?

Johnathan Bordelon: Well originally November 20, I mean originally it was August 22.

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Commissioner Courville: Ok. And now we are moving it anywhere?

Johnathan Bordelon: It's going to be extended due to these public hearing requests.

Commissioner Courville: Ok. What date is that again?

Johnathan Bordelon: The registry date will be August 20th. That's when this will go in to the registry. And as a result, we will be limited to 35 - 40 days post-registry as required by the Louisiana Administrative Code.

Commissioner Courville: Ok. So if I'm understanding you right we need to take some sort of action if we're changing any of it by this September meeting?

Johnathan Bordelon: I'll defer this question to Mr. Ribbeck. Thank you.

Yolanda Martin: It's no additional action. It's just for the public meetings. They are held between days 35 and 40 after the publication after the Notice of Intent. And so that these dates are falling within the time frame prescribed by the Administrative Code.

Commissioner Courville: Ok. Thanks Ms. Martin. Maybe if I can ask you another question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Courville.

Commissioner Courville: If there's going to be any changes I want to make sure we

have time to make any changes before it becomes law or a rule.

Yolanda Martin: He should come back to you with a summary of the comments and then you can have any amendments at that time.

Wendy Brogdon: Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Brogdon.

Wendy Brogdon: I understand where Commissioner, the point of his question is once we hold the public hearings and if a decision is made as a result to change the original NOI from the original verbiage to make a substantive change, it will require a potpourri to be done as with the hunting rules and regulations. Another public hearing will have to be held in the same manner where we allow people to comment on the proposed changes that you're making due to the public hearings.

Commissioner Courville: To the existing NOI, that would be the law of the land at that time.

Wendy Brogdon: Yes, sir. That is correct. Yes. So it does, if changes, if proposed changes are made to the original verbiage of the NOI that was published last month then it will add additional time on to the end. If substantive changes are proposed. It resets it.

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Chairman Yakupzack: Ms. Martin, is that how you -

Yolanda Martin: It resets it. It resets the notice period.

Commissioner Courville: So we reset. We get another extent before it becomes the law of the land, right?

Chairman Yakupzack: So if there are changes to an NOI, like with this NOI, like within any NOI, it could delay the ultimate regulation being set. So we all recognize that here today and we'll see what comes out of these public meetings and this Commission will consider the NOI fully and if it requires amendment then we'll consider amendment then. Is my appreciation correct?

Yolanda Martin: Yes.

Commissioner Courville: I think I'm ok. As long as we still have some time. I'm concerned about the timing and all of that but it sounds like if you're good with it, I'm good with it.

Chairman Yakupzack: Commissioner Manuel.

Commissioner Manuel: Johnathan, on most issues we have more than 4 meetings in areas. You go to 7 or 8, whatever it is. Why are we only doing 4 for this? This is a pretty contentious Notice of Intent.

Johnathan Bordelon: Well we picked areas that we felt would give us good

distribution, you know, around the state.

Commissioner Manuel: Is there a possibility to have more?

Johnathan Bordelon: You certainly could request more. We are going to -

Commissioner Manuel: Well I'd like for you to look in, I don't know about the rest of the Commission, but I'd like, me personally, I'd like to see you look in to doing some additional meetings. You know, I don't know where. New Orleans, for instance. Something like that.

Randy Myers: Commissioner Manuel. We certainly could consider that. Obviously we would have to do it within the time frame, within those dates. If you have any -

Commissioner Manuel: As soon as this meeting is over, y'all can start deciding.

Randy Myers: If you have any specific recommendation of where you'd like for us to have one if we haven't covered those bases then we'll have to consider and see if we can make those arrangements. Again, your point is -

Commissioner Manuel: The New Orleans area would certainly be one. Somewhere around the Baton Rouge area since so many people going to Mississippi and Alabama. You know you got hunters on

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2016

both sides of the state. Minden is close, I guess, close to the Texas line as you there. You got Lafayette but you could go to Fort Polk. Somewhere like that. Just I think it would be best to have a few more meetings to give those people who are on the edge of the state where they don't have to go so far.

Johnathan Bordelon: Yes, sir. That will be considered.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any other questions from the Commission? We have a public comment request from a Joe Macaluso.

Joe Macaluso: I'm going to follow up on Mr. Manuel's proposal. In here they have ignored the two major population areas in the state. There's no New Orleans. I realize Mandeville is close but guys get off of work at 5:00 and to get to Mandeville at 6:00, there's going to be a little bit of trouble for a guy from Belle Chasse. And then Baton Rouge. We had these meetings every month but making for businessmen and for other folks making a 9:30 meeting on a Thursday is a little difficult. There's none in Lake Charles and none in Monroe, and that's two other major metropolitan areas. So I would suggest, like Mr. Manuel suggested, that this be expanded. Thank you.

Commissioner Manuel: You agree with me, Joe?

Commissioner Sunseri: Mr. Chairman, I would say possibly on the West Bank in New Orleans the Alario Center would probably be a good site.

Chairman Yakupzack: So we've heard Baton Rouge, New Orleans, West Bank of New Orleans. I trust that the Wildlife Section will refocus on those and see if additional meetings can be fit in to that five day period and covered by the appropriate staff. Thank you guys. Next on the Agenda would be Agenda Item 12. I'd like to pause for a moment and go back to be in a point of clarity on Agenda No. 10. It was listed as an Action Item, we heard from the Department that this certain Resolution to add 23,300 acres to Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area required some additional consideration before the Department was ready to present to this Commission for approval. So we will consider that in September. Ms. Martin, do we, is it appropriate for us to take action to pass that to September?

Yolanda Martin: Take action to pass on the item.

Commissioner Courville: So move to consider the Resolution at the September meeting.

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

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Commissioner Manuel: Second that we pass.

Chairman Yakupzack: Ok. So we got a motion by Mr. Courville and a second by Commissioner Manuel. Any public comment? All in favor?

All: Yea.

Chairman Yakupzack: Any opposed? Hearing no opposition we'll pass to consider the Resolution listed in Agenda Item 10 at the September Commission Meeting. Agenda Item No. 12: Set December 2016 Meeting Date.

Commissioner Manuel: Mr. Chairman. Last year we moved the December meeting to Lake Charles. I would suggest we move it again this year to somewhere. Monroe, Alexandria, New Orleans. It don't matter to me. Just have it somewhere where we can all duck hunting before the meeting and move it to after lunch.

Chairman Yakupzack: We certainly got 5 or 6 months to consider that and if you want to refine your proposal for next meeting and we'll take it up then.

Commissioner Manuel: We can do it then?

Chairman Yakupzack: Yeah.

Commissioner Manuel: That's fine.

Chairman Yakupzack: Today what's important is the date. We can adjust the location next month.

Commissioner Manuel: The date is the December what? December 1st, that's going to be during the split, huh?

Chairman Yakupzack: The 8th would be the split as I appreciate it. Where's Larry?

Commissioner Manuel: Well we can still go somewhere. We can go fishing that morning.

Chairman Yakupzack: The first Thursday is December 1st. So we're going to, the meeting will be held on December 1st. Somewhere at some time and we will provide that information as soon as Commissioner Manuel refines his request.

Commissioner Manuel: Unless we can change the seasons again.

Chairman Yakupzack: Now I come to Agenda No. 14 and this meeting is adjourned. I need one motion.

Commissioner Courville: So moved.

Chairman Yakupzack: Motion from Commissioner Courville.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT
AUGUST 2016

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 1 Grand Total Citations: 67

Parishes: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, Webster

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 39
1	Allow Person Under 16 to Operate Personal Watercraft	
14	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
4	Buying or Selling Deer or Meat	
1	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
2	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
3	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Illegal Shipping of Commercial Fish	
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	Lacey Act	
1	Littering	
1	Possession of Untagged Deer	
1	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail	
2	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail	
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass	
1	Take or Poss. Game Fish Illegally (Specify)	
1	Transport W/O Required Lic (Resident or Non-Res.)	
2	Transport W/O Required Lic (Resident or Non-Res.)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 28
13	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
2	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Improper Boat Numbers	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 2 Grand Total Citations: 54

Parishes: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita,
Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 37
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
10	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
3	Buying or Selling Deer or Meat	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
2	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
3	Gross Littering	
1	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
2	Littering	
1	No Boat Numbers	
1	Operate ATV Vehicle on Public Road	
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Sell and/or Purchase Game Fish	
2	Take or Poss. Game Fish Illegally (Specify)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 17
6	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
2	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
4	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 3 Grand Total Citations: 136

Parishes: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine,
Vernon, Winn

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 120
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
16	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
1	Allow Person Under 16 to Operate Personal Watercraft	
1	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License	
22	Angling W/O A License	
6	Criminal Trespass on State Property	
5	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
3	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Mark/Tag Nets. (freshwater)	
4	Gross Littering	
1	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit	
2	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
14	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
1	Improper Running Lights	
2	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
2	Littering	
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
9	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
2	Operate a vehicle while under suspension (on highway)	
2	Operate ATV Vehicle on Public Road	
1	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 4 Grand Total Citations: 145

Parishes: Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 66
1	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
11	Angling W/O A License	
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Careless Operation	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
7	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
2	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
9	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
1	Failure to comply with No Wake Zone (local)	
9	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Flight From an Officer	
2	Gross Littering	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
2	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
2	Littering	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Overloading of Motorboat .	
1	Resisting An Officer	
1	Take or Poss. Game Fish Illegally (Specify)	
3	Take or Poss. Game Fish Illegally (Specify)	
1	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	
2	Violate Rules/Regs-Personal Watercraft-PFD	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 5 Grand Total Citations: 63

Parishes: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis,
Vermilion

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 34
3	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
6	Angling W/O A License	
6	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Hunt or take bear closed season	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
3	Littering	
1	Misrepresentation during issuance of Misdemeanor	
1	Operate Watercraft During License Suspension	
1	Operating a vehicle while under suspension for certain prior offenses.	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Poss. of O/B or Motorboat W/Serial No. Removed/Altered	
1	Violate Federal Highly Migratory Species Regulations	
1	Violate Finfish By-Catch Provisions (25fish max)	

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 29
4	Angling W/O A License	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to comply with Waterskiing regs	
1	Failure to Comply W/Visual Distress Signals	
2	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6 Grand Total Citations: 214

Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson
(Grand Isle) 2nd

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 115
10	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
2	Allow Person Under 16 to Operate Personal Watercraft	
1	Allow Unlic. Fisherman to use CML Gear Lic.	
1	Allow Unlic. Fisherman to use Vessel LicOr vessel	
4	Angling W/O A License	
5	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
4	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
1	Careless Operation	
1	Commission Rules and Regs. Red Snapper	
5	Commission Rules and Regs. Red Snapper	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
1	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to Comply W/Special Bait Dealers Permit	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
1	Fail to comply with CommRules & Regs. (Traversing)	
5	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
2	Failure to Have Written Permission	
1	Failure to comply with No Wake Zone (local)	
4	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole Lic	
4	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
2	Improper Boat Numbers	
1	Improper Running Lights	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 6 Grand Total Citations: 214

Parishes: Assumption, Lafourche, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Jefferson
(Grand Isle) 2nd

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 99
22	Angling W/O A License	
9	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
8	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
16	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
3	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
5	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
7	Fail to comply with tiller outboard engine cutoff less than 26 feet	
1	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
1	Failure to Comply W/Visual Distress Signals	
5	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
1	Failure to Display Proper Number on Vessel	
4	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole Lic	
1	Hunting W/O Resident Lic	
2	Improper Boat Numbers	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
4	No Boat Registration Certificate in Possession	
1	Personal Watercraft Cutoff Lanyard Not Attached	
3	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum	
1	Violate Rules/Regs-Personal Watercraft-PFD	

Region: 6	Confiscations		
	33-Sks Oysters	2- Raccoons	3- Red Drum
	22- Black Drum	19-Red Snappers	393-Cattfish
	3-Alligators	3-Crappie	2-Perch
	1-Bass	6-Sea Trout	2-Vessels
	2-Oyster Dredges	1-Pkg Marijuana	1-Driver's License

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 7 Grand Total Citations: 58

Parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,
Washington, West Feliciana

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 55
6	(Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries)	
3	Allow or use anothers recreational hunting license	
7	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
1	Careless Operation	
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
3	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
1	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
3	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Fail to Tag Alligator Upon Taking	
4	Gross Littering	
3	HUNT DOVES CLOSE SEASON	
3	Hunting MGB Illegal Hours	
4	Illegal Possession of Drugs or Marijuana	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
1	Littering	
1	Operate ATV Vehicle on Public Road	
2	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Poss. of O/B or Motorboat W/Serial No. Removed/Altered	
1	Possession of Live Non-Game Quadrupeds W/O Permit	
1	Take Alligators W/O License	
1	Take/Possess Spotted Fawn.	
1	Taking or Possessing Alligators Closed Season	
2	Violate No Wake Zone (public launch public docking facility)	

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Case Report

Region: 8 Grand Total Citations: 198

Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany

Written Citations		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 111
1	Angling W/O A License	
2	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
3	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident	
2	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident	
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License	
1	Commission Rules and Regs. Tuna	
4	Expired Boat Registration Certificate	
2	Fail to comply w/PFD requirements less than 16 feet tiller outboard	
3	Fail to comply with boating education requirements	
3	Fail To Have Commercial Lic. in Poss	
8	Fail to Have PFD on Person Under 17 While Underway	
1	Fail to Maintain Records	
1	Failure to Have Written Permission	
5	Failure to Have Written Permission	
3	Failure to Change Ownership of Regist. (45days)	
6	Failure to Comply with PFD Requirements	
2	Failure to Display Valid Certificate Decal	
1	Improper Boat Numbers	
1	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
1	Improper Running Lights	
2	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Operating a Vessel While Intoxicated	
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated	
1	Possess or sell undersized crabs (10% to 19%)	
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O CommGear Lic	
3	Take Oysters Illegal Hours	
2	Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)	
1	Tending crab traps illegal hours	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Region: 8 Grand Total Citations: 198

Parishes: Jefferson (E1,W2,24), Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany

Written Warnings		
Total	Description	Total Cases: 87
1	Improper Boat Numbers	
16	Improper or No Fire Extinguisher	
2	Improper Running Lights	
1	Improperly Riding on Deck or Gunwales	
2	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA	
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat or Sailboat	
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Req.	
7	Violate Sanitation Code (Vessel Sanit.Req)	

Region: 8	Confiscations	
	2- Spotted Seatrout 19-Brim 2- Raccoons 2532lbs-Shrimp	3- Hogs 1 -Bass 394-Oyster Sacks

Region: 8	Total Number For Public Assistance
Total	Description
3	

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Enforcement Case Report**

Written Citations: 577

Written Warnings: 358

Public Assistance:

17

Two Louisiana Men Sentenced for Illegal Deer Hunting Violations

Release Date: 08/01/2016

Two Louisiana men were ordered to pay a total of \$38,776 in East and West Feliciana courts in the past week for deer hunting violations that occurred in February of 2016.

Judge Elizabeth "Betsy" Jones of the 20th Judicial District Court in both East and West Feliciana parishes sentenced Devin Wascome, 26, of Slaughter, and Joseph Buhler, 21, of Zachary, to pay fines, fees and court costs, as well as revoke their hunting privileges for five years.

Wascome was ordered to pay \$17,231 in East Feliciana Parish and \$4,791 in West Feliciana Parish. He was also forced to forfeit his .17 caliber rifle. Buhler was ordered to pay \$12,560 in East Feliciana Parish and \$4,194 in West Feliciana Parish. The men must also pay a total of \$6,498 in civil restitution for the replacement value of the illegally taken deer.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) agents cited Wascome and Buhler on Feb. 10, 2016 for illegal deer hunting violations in East Feliciana, West Feliciana, East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes.

After receiving a complaint about Wascome and Buhler illegally taking deer, agents initiated an investigation. During the investigation agents found that Wascome and Buhler illegally harvested a deer on Feb. 1 in East Feliciana Parish, Feb. 7 in West Feliciana Parish, and on Feb. 8 in East Feliciana Parish. Wascome also admitted to illegally shooting a doe on Feb. 4 at night while on foot.

The two men would drive around at night on public roads hunting for deer. They were cited for taking deer during a closed season and illegal hours, hunting from a moving vehicle, possession of illegally taken deer, taking deer from a public road, intentional concealment of illegally taken wildlife, failing to comply with deer tagging requirements, and discharging a firearm from a public road among other violations.

The two were also cited for illegal deer hunting activities in East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes since they admitted to actively hunting those parishes using the same methods they did to harvest the illegally taken deer in East and West Feliciana parishes. The two men have yet to appear in court in East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes.

District Attorney Sam D'Aquila prosecuted this case for the state in East and West Feliciana parishes.

1-800-256-2749 | (225) 765-2800 | Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000

2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Four Mississippi Men Cited for Illegal Shrimping in Louisiana Waters

Release Date: 08/03/2016

A Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) enforcement agent cited four Mississippi men for alleged shrimping violations on Aug. 2 in St. Bernard Parish.

The agent cited Joe Tran, 48, Duc Le, 48, Tri Le, 55, and Phung Hoang, 59, for trawling in a closed season.

Senior Agent Brett Nabors received a complaint about a vessel illegally catching shrimp in Lake Borgne near the Rigolets. The agent observed the four men with their trawls in the water around 8:10 a.m.

The agent observed shrimp and fresh bycatch in the closed tails of the trawls when they were instructed to pick up. The agent seized 6,100 pounds of shrimp from the vessel and sold them to the highest bidder.

Using skimmers in a closed season brings a \$400 to \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail and forfeiture of anything seized.

In addition for the first conviction of shrimping during the closed season, the court may revoke or suspend the violator's trawl, skimmer, or butterfly gear licenses for one year from the date of the conviction. During such revocation or suspension, the violator may be present on a vessel harvesting or possessing shrimp or possessing a trawl, skimmer, or butterfly net only if the vessel is equipped with and employs an operating vessel monitoring system which is accessible to LDWF. The violator may also have to perform 40 hours of community service.

1-800-256-2749 | (225) 765-2800 | Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O.
Box 98000
2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Three Men Arrested For Oyster Violations in St. Bernard Parish

Release Date: 08/09/2016

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement agents arrested three men for alleged oyster and boating safety violations today, Aug. 9 in St. Bernard Parish.

Agents arrested Tyler Campo, 24, of St. Bernard, Brian Cocchiara, 24, of Chalmette, and Nathan Molinary, 20, of Violet, for taking oysters during illegal hours and unlawfully taking oysters from state water bottoms. Agents also cited Campo for failing to comply with personal flotation device (PFD) requirements, possess a fire extinguisher, have proper navigation lights, possess commercial licenses, for not filling out the Department of Health and Hospitals log book as it pertains to oysters, and not having the required vessel sanitation requirements fulfilled.

Agents made contact with a vessel being operated by Campo around 5 a.m. when they spotted the vessel being operated with no running lights and actively dredging for oysters one hour before legal harvest could begin. During the stop agents learned about the health code and boating safety violations and that Campo was dredging in an area he was not allowed.

Unlawfully harvesting oysters during illegal hours and unlawfully taking oysters from unleased state water bottoms carries a \$950 fine and up to 120 days in jail. Violating the health code requirements carries a \$25 fine and up to 10 days in jail for each offense. Each of the boating safety violations carries a \$50 fine and up to 15 days in jail.

Agents booked the three men into the St. Bernard Parish Jail. Agents also returned one sack of oysters to the water, seized one oyster dredge and a forfeiture order was placed on Campo's vessel until disposition of case in court.

The men could also have their oyster harvester licenses revoked by the department for up to one year. The violators could also be sentenced to perform 40 hours of community service and only be allowed to harvest oysters from a vessel with a vessel monitoring device for up to one year.

Agents participating in the case are Lt. Adam Young and Sgt. Jason Gernados.

1-800-256-2749 | (225) 765-2800 | Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O.
Box 98000
2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

MONTHLY BOATING CRASH / INCIDENT REPORT

August 2016

August / YEAR TO DATE

<u>NUMBER OF BOATING INCIDENTS</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>98</u>
<u>NUMBER OF INJURIES</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>NUMBER OF FATALITIES</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>

8/3/16 Ouachita

Vessel (1 occupant / Remote steer) was being operated on Lake Bartholomew when it struck a submerged object causing the vessel to capsize. A PFD was used.

8/5/16 St. Martin

Vessel (3 occupants / 15'5" Tiller steer) was being operated on Grand Lake Location Canal when it struck a submerged object (log) causing two occupants to be ejected. Two occupants sustained injuries and were transported for further medical attention. PFD's were used by one occupant.

8/6/16 Sabine

Vessel #1 (3 occupants) and vessel #2 (3 occupants) were being operated in the same direction on Toledo Bend. Vessel #2 ramped vessel #1 from the rear causing vessel damage. Unknown if PFD's used.

8/7/16 Jefferson

Vessel (5 occupants / Remote steer) was being operated on Caminada Bay when it struck a fixed object (Rock Jetties) which caused the vessel to become grounded and major damage to the motor. PFD's were not used.

8/20/16 St. Mary

Vessel (1 occupant / tiller steer) was being operated on Union Oil #2 canal (Attakapas WMA). The operator removed the plug in an attempt to drain water when the vessel collided with a fixed object (tree). The operator was ejected and transported for further medical attention. A PFD was not used.

8/25/16 Lafourche

Vessel (1 occupant / 14' Remote steer) was being operated in a pipeline near Little Lake when it struck a submerged object (rock dam) causing damage to the lower unit. PFD's were used.

*Denotes Fatality

Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division
Monthly Boating Incident Report

2015 Incidents to date

Crash / Incidents	82
Injuries	48
Fatalities	12

2016 Incidents to date

Crash / Incidents	98
Injuries	72
Fatalities	15

NOTICE: This report only represents incidents reported to and investigated by the Enforcement Division. Some or all of these incidents are still under investigation and cause or fault may or may not have been determined. Information provided is for informational purposes only. For more information contact Lt. Colonel Sammy Martin smartin@wlf.la.gov or 225/765-2536.

RESOLUTION

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

September 1, 2016

To commend the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its dedicated personnel for their outstanding and exemplary efforts during the recent historic flood.

WHEREAS, after unprecedented rainfall in a very short period of time, portions of Louisiana experienced serious flooding, power outages, road closures, and other catastrophic damage. As a result of this historic flood, during a four day span August of 2016, decimated several Louisiana parishes, many cities, and the homes and businesses of countless citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division, agents performed search and rescue operations that helped save 3,152 people and 612 pets from flood waters between August 13-17, 2016; and

WHEREAS the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents have participated and performed exceptionally well in search and rescue missions for hurricanes Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac; as well as other localized flooding events, including the March 2016 flooding occurrence in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, search and rescue missions in populated areas are inherently more dangerous than those that take place in navigable waterways; and in spite of severe weather and unusual urban and suburban terrains, countless underwater obstacles, and very little preparation or time, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement division persevered in performing these outstanding missions with little to no sleep both day and night; and

WHEREAS, more than seven trillion gallons of water fell over eight days with some Louisiana communities receiving more than 22 inches of rain; and

WHEREAS, thirteen lives were lost, an estimated \$110 million in agricultural losses sustained, and 60,000 homes in Louisiana were flooded and damaged; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division's August flood rescue statistics included the following efforts by parishes affected:

Tangipahoa	305 people and 108 animals
Washington	3 people
Livingston	214 people and 82 animals
St. Helena	25 people
East Baton Rouge	1,442 people and 230 animals
Iberia	41 people and 3 animals
Lafayette	837 people and 114 animals
East Feliciana	49 people and 5 animals
West Feliciana	2 people
Vermilion	98 people and 28 animals
Acadia	24 people and 4 animals
St. Landry	22 people and 14 animals
Ascension	90 people and 19 pets
Total	3,152 people, 612 pets; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its personnel throughout the entire event, despite their own personal hardships, provided unwavering support to the citizens and communities in desperate need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognize the exceptional performances of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its personnel during this unprecedented flooding event; and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledge and extend its heartfelt gratitude for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, Office of Fisheries, Office of Wildlife, Office of the Secretary and its personnel's tireless labor and devotion to the citizens of Louisiana while in harm's way.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby acknowledge, honor and commend all personnel, agents, or other employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries who served beyond the call of duty, for their bravery, dedication, and persistence in searching for, rescuing, and otherwise assisting our citizens with finding safety for themselves, their families, and their pets; and for giving comfort and aid to the distressed citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission graciously thank all personnel, agents, or other employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for all that they do for the State of Louisiana.

Bart Yakupzack, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Charles J. "Charlie" Melancon, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

RESOLUTION

Adding Certain Licensed Properties to Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
September 1, 2016

- WHEREAS, the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area was established by Governor's Proclamation dated November 1, 1969; and
- WHEREAS, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated March 1, 2013, the Department of the Army authorized the transfer of newly acquired training land, including water bottoms, and established the ground work for such newly acquired land to be operated and maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC), and incorporated into the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The MOA further stipulates that the newly acquired property will be incorporated into a Wildlife Management Area when Fort Polk provides written notification to LDWF and receives written acceptance from the LDWF; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to the said MOA, the Department of the Army provided notice to LDWF by letter dated February 4, 2016 of its intent to include additional acreage comprised of 23,300 acres, more or less, situated in Vernon Parish, which is further depicted in the attached "Exhibit A", and referred to as the Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract, to be operated and maintained by the LDWF and incorporated into the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area, with the condition that the LDWF accepts the additional acreage into the WMA; and
- WHEREAS, by letter dated March 16, 2016, the Secretary of the LDWF acknowledged and accepted the Department of the Army's said Notice of Inclusion of the said 23,300 acres, more or less, Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract; and agreed to operate and maintain the Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract and incorporate same into the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area; and
- WHEREAS, these properties contain valuable wildlife habitat and their protection and proper management is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.
- WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the LDWF that the LDWF confirms and reaffirms that all federally licensed lands and federally owned land, including water bottoms (located within the property description of the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area, described in the Governor's Proclamation dated November 1, 1969), are selected and established as a wildlife management area; and
- WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the LDWF that in order to enhance the wildlife habitat in the State and provide for public use and recreational use opportunities on the 23,300 acres, more or less, of lands, including water bottoms, of the Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract which is more particularly depicted in the attached "Exhibit A", that the said Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract be selected and established as a wildlife management area and be added to and included into the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area; and
- WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of LDWF that the LWFC select the newly acquired federal lands, including water bottoms, located within the 23,300 acre, more or less, Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract, be established as a wildlife management area.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the LWFC, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 109, Section 763 and Section 781, *et seq.*, of the Revised Statutes of 1954, hereby confirms and reaffirms the selection and establishment of all lands, including water bottoms, located within located within the property

description of the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area as described in the Governor's Proclamation dated November 1, 1969 as a wildlife management area; and selects and establishes all lands, including water bottoms, located within the 23,300 acres, more or less, Fort Polk Training Grounds Tract, accepted by LDWF for inclusion on March 16, 2016, and as described in the attached Exhibit "A" as a Wildlife Management Area, and is hereby added to and incorporated into the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area; which is identified on the attached map as "Exhibit B".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is dedicated to the protection, conservation, and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes, subject to the MOA dated March 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this resolution.

Bart R. Yakupzack, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Charles J. Melancon, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

EXHIBIT A
Property Descriptions

The Fort Polk Training Grounds consists all of those certain tracts of land situated in Vernon Parish, Louisiana more particularly described as follows:

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 622

Owner: Danny R. Hardwick, et ux

Acres: 1.00

Begin at the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4 of NE1/4) of Section 4, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, and run South 2 degrees 00 minutes West 757.55 feet; thence run North 88 degrees 14 minutes West 661.95 feet to the Point of Beginning, thence continue North 88 degrees 14 minutes West 150 feet along the centerline of parish gravel road; thence South 10 degrees 31 minutes West 300 feet; thence South 88 degrees 14 minutes East 150 feet; thence North 10 degrees 31 minutes East 300 feet to Point of Beginning.

Being the same property recorded in Book 593, Page 725 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Tract: 623

Owner: Gilbert Jean B. Hardwick

Acres: 44.00

Begin at the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4; thence run N to the center line of the public road; thence run along the center line of said road to the W side of the 40 acre tract; thence run S to the SW corner of the 40 acre tract; thence run E back to the point of beginning, being all of that portion of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4 lying S of the public road; also, begin at the NE corner of the NE 1/4 and run S to the center line of said road; thence to the W side of said 40 acres; thence N to the NE corner of said 40; thence E to the point of beginning, being all of that portion of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4 lying N of the public road; also, five acres in the NE corner of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4.

Being the same property recorded in Book 485, Page 132 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 639 Owner: Parker, Robert Mark and Wendy Ann Acres: 64.00

Tract 1:

**Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Section 11, Vernon Parish, Louisiana described as follows:
All of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter.**

Tract 2:

**Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Section 11, Vernon Parish, Louisiana described as follows:
All of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, less a sixteen (16) acre tract lying West of
the public road, sold to Robert Matt Parker.**

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 621

Owner: Ronald E. Lawrence, et ux

Acres: 30.00

Parcel 1:

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 4

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; and

Parcel 2:

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 4

S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; and a strip of land in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of said N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of said section;

THENCE, North along the East line of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ a distance of 250 feet, more or less, to the center line of a parish road known as Calcasieu Loop;

THENCE, West along the centerline a distance of 40 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 250 feet, more or less, to the South line of said N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, East a distance of 40 feet back to the Point of Beginning;

Being the same property recorded in Book 1143, Page 356, and Book 1143, Page 754 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 560

Owner: Sharon D. Stone, ET AL

Acres: 80.00

**A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon,
located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:**

Township 3 North, Range 8 West

Section 18

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

**Being the same property referenced in Book 808, Page 765, Book 859, Page 239, Book 552,
Page 160 and Book 859, Page 216 deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.**

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 561

Owner: Morris Jean McRae, ET AL

Acres: 8.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West

Section 18

Eight acres in the SE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Being the same property referenced in Book 516, Page 255 and Book 986, Page 457 deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract 559

Owner: Tanner Heavy Equipment Company, L.L.C.

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 8 West

Section 28

S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 20.00 acres more or less;

Being a portion of a tract of land, as described in Cash Sale Deed from Bonnie Lee Smith and Sharon Darlene Smith (married) to Bill Anderson and Macel Anderson (married), filed on December 8, 2004, recorded in Book 1137, Page 591, document number 576617, official public records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 558

Owner: William and Luis Hyatt

Acres: 17.64

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE PARISH OF VERNON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

DESCRIPTION OF A 17.64 +/--ACRE TRACT LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, VERNON PARISH, LOUISIANA.

COMMENCING AT A 5" X 5" CONCRETE POST MARKING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST; THENCE PROCEED NORTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 03 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 651.64 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD; THENCE TURN RIGHT AND PROCEED SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 31 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 267.40 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD MARKING THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT TO BE DESCRIBED; THENCE TURN LEFT AND PROCEED NORTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 03 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 651.60 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD; THENCE TURN RIGHT AND PROCEED SOUTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 393.46 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD; THENCE TURN LEFT AND PROCEED NORTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 125.00 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD; THENCE TURN RIGHT AND PROCEED SOUTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 660.00 FEET TO A 1" IRON PIPE; THENCE TURN, RIGHT AND PROCEED SOUTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE; OF 125.00 FEET TO A 1" IRON PIPE; THENCE TURN LEFT AND PROCEED SOUTH 89 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 651.42 FEET TO A 1" IRON PIPE; THENCE TURN RIGHT AND PROCEED NORTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 1051.61 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 17.64 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND IS MORE PARTICULARLY INDICATED ON CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY BY WILLIAM J. WOOD, JR. DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2008.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 554 Owner: Julien R. Stevens III & Jennifer B. Stevens Acres: 200.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 6**

The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$)

Being the same property referenced in Book 966, Page 782, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

**Township 3 North, Range 9 West
Section 1**

The East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$)

Being the same property referenced in Book 966, Page 782, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

**Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 7**

The Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$)

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 553 Owner: C&M Family Properties, L.L.C. Acres: 80.00

Two tracts of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 6
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$**

Being the same property referenced in Book 446, Page 229 and Book 1396, Page 373, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana;

**Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 6
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$**

Being the same property referenced in Book 575, Page 112 and Book 1396, Page 373, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 552

Owner: Madga West McCormick

Acres: 20.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West

Section 6

W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Being the same property referenced in Book 1052, Page 43, Tract 3, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT "A"

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 551
Acres: 20.00

Owner: John Malcolm Smart

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 6
E $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Being the same property referenced in Book 1583, Page 575, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 550

Owner: Benita West Luman

Acres: 20.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West

Section 6

E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Being the same property referenced in Book 1052, Page 43, Tract 2, deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiann**

Tract: 544

Owner: Charles Anthony Owen

Acres: 40.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 4 North, Range 9 West
Section 35
SE¼NE¼**

Being a portion of the same property acquired by Charles Anthony Owen by Partition and Exchange Deed from Charles Anthony Owen and Mae Ann Owen White dated and filed March 6, 2013 in Conveyance Book 1473, Page 295, #649766, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 542 Owner: Ronald S. Broadway and Bradley Smart Acres: 20.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 4 North, Range 9 West
Section 26
W $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$**

Being the same property acquired by Ronald S. Broadway, husband of Mary Yvette Broadway and Bradley Smart, husband of Kimberley Ferguson Smart by Cash Sale Deed from William J. McInnis dated and filed December 2, 2008, in Conveyance Book 1317, Page 399, #611453, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: Tract 537

Contract No. DACA63-7-14-0089

Owner: Dearing-Moses Properties, L.L.C.

Acres: 59.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 9 West

Section 22

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 59.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property acquired from Rose Marie F. Dearing to Dearing-Moses Properties, L.L.C. filed and recorded on November 2, 2011, in Conveyance Book 1440, Page 702, #636831, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana; and Salvinia Ann F. Moses to Dearing-Moses Properties, L.L.C. filed and recorded on November 2, 2011, in Conveyance Book 1440, Page 684, #636823, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Tract: 536

Owner: Holly Grove Methodist Church

Acres: 40.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West

Section 5

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 40.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property acquired by in that deed from Dr. W. F. Franklin (married) to Holly Grove Methodist Church, (an association) filed and recorded May 26, 1928 in Conveyance Book 82, Page 325, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

PORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 535

Owner: Sherrie D. Evans, Trust

Acres: 6.67

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 8 West
Section 32

Beginning at Southeast corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

THENCE, West a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 660.00 feet;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 660.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.67 acres, more or less;

Being a portion of the same property acquired from Dorothy F. Lacaze (widow of George E. Lacaze) and Dennis W. Lacaze as sole heir of George & Dorothy Lacaze, to Sherrie D. Evans Trust, Max Evans Trustee, filed and recorded on April 22, 1996, in Conveyance Book 859, Page 314, #500595, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 534

Owner: John R. Evans, Trust

Acres: 6.66

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 4 North, Range 8 West
Section 32**

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,

THENCE, East 440.00 feet for the Point of Beginning;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 660.00 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 660.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.66 acres, more or less;

Being the same property acquired by John R. Evans Trust from Cash Sale Deed from Kathleen Houston Stalnaker & Charles R. Stalnaker, wife and husband filed and recorded on April 8, 1996, in Conveyance Book 859, Page 92, #500216, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 533

Owner: Angela K. Evans, Trust

Acres: 6.67

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 4 North, Range 8 West
Section 32**

Beginning at the Southwest corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 660.00 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 660.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.67 acres, more or less;

Being a portion of the same property acquired by Angela K. Evans Trust, Max Evans Trustee, from Joseph D. LaCaze, filed and recorded on April 9, 1996, in Conveyance Book 859, Page 88, #500212, records of Vernon Parish, State of Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 532

Owner: Elizabeth E. Evans, Trust

Acres: 6.66

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 8 West
Section 32

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 660.00 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 660.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.66 acres, more or less;

Being the same property acquired by Elizabeth E. Evans Trust from Freda Craft by Cash Sale Deed filed and recorded on April 9, 1996, in Conveyance Book 859, Page 89, #500213, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 531

Owner: Allen L. Evans Trust

Acres: 6.66

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

**Township 4 North, Range 8 West
Section 32**

Commencing at the Northwest corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet to the Point of Beginning;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 660.00 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 660.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.66 acres, more or less;

Being the same property acquired by Allen L. Evans Trust from Maurice L. Burton filed and recorded on April 9, 1996, in Conveyance Book 859, Page 91, #500215, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 530

Owner: Sidney B. Evans III Trust

Acres: 6.67

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 8 West
Section 32

Beginning at Northeast corner NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, West a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 660.00 feet;

THENCE, East a distance of 440.00 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 660.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.67 acres, more or less;

Being the same property acquired by Sidney B. Evans III Trust from Cash Sale Deed from Zelda D. Lacaze filed and recorded on April 9, 1996, in Conveyance Book 859, Page 90, #500214, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 567

**Owner: Kelly Cantrell Armstrong
Christopher Alnn Cantrell**

Acres: 2.00

**All that part of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Sec. 22, T4N, R8W, lying East of La. Hwy. 117,
Vernon Parish, LA.**

Less and Except:

**Begin at the Southeast Corner of Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4, Section 22, Township 4 North,
Range 8 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana and run North 251 feet to Point of Beginning; thence
run West 315 feet, more or less to Highway right of way of La. Hwy. 117; thence Northeasterly
along said line 300 feet; thence run East 215 feet; thence run Southwest 300 feet, more or less, to
Point of Beginning.**

And Less and Except:

**Begin at the SE corner of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 22, Township 4 North, Range 8
West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana; thence run North 551' for Point of Beginning; thence North 769
feet to North line of SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4; thence West 50'; thence Southwesterly 786.5 feet;
thence East 215 feet back to Point of Beginning.**

Consisting of two (2), acres more or less.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 625

Owner: Dennis Steve Burns

Acres: 40.00

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 8

NW¼ SW¼

Being the same property referenced in Book 1213, Page 639, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract 538 Owner: B.G. & Betty Killian Lewis, Trust Acres: 40 acres

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 9 West

Section 22

NE ¼ SE ¼, containing 40.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property acquired by B.G. & Betty Killian Lewis Trust from Sally Morris Rose and John N. Rose (married), filed and recorded on February 3, 2011, in Conveyance Book 1404, Page 14, #629648, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 647

Owner: Hubert T. Lawrence

Acres: 12.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Section 4 & 5

E1/2 of NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Sec. 5, T3N, R7W, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, and SW1/4 of NW1/4 of NW1/4 of Sec. 4, T3N, R7W.

LESS AND EXCEPT: A tract of land described as: Begin at the NW Corner of the SW1/4 of NW1/4 of NW1/4, Sec. 4, T3N, R7W, and this is the point of beginning; thence North run 35 yards, West 70 yards, South 70 yards, East 70 yards, thence North 35 yards back to the point of beginning.

And a tract described as: Begin at the NW Corner of the SW1/4 of NW1/4 of NW1/4, Sec. 4, T3N, R7W, Vernon Parish, LA, and run East 84 feet, thence South 225 feet, thence West 294 feet, thence North 120 feet, thence East 210 feet, thence North 105 feet, to the point of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

From the Northeast corner of Sec. 5, T3N, R7W, run South along the East line of said Section 5 a distance of 555.8 feet; thence turn to the right and run North 89 degrees 04 minutes West a distance of 210 feet; thence turn to the right and run North 0 degrees 01 minutes West a distance of 38.7 feet; thence turn to the left and run North 89 degrees 04 minutes West a distance of 110.7 feet; thence turn right and run North 0 degrees 01 minutes West a distance of 517.1 feet to the north line of said Section 5; thence run south 89 degrees 04 minutes East along the North line of Section 5 a distance of 321.2 feet back to the point of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A part of the E1/2 of NE1/4 of Sec. 5, T3N, R7W, Vernon Parish, LA described as follows: Begin at the NE corner of said E1/2, thence N89 degrees 04 minutes W along the North line of said E1/2-321.2 feet for point of beginning; thence continue N89 degrees 04 minutes W along said North line 337.0 feet; thence S00 degrees 04 minutes E-258.53 feet; thence S89 degrees 04 minutes E-336.73 feet; thence N00 degrees 01 minutes W-258.53 feet to the point of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A part of the E1/2 of NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Sec. 5., T3N, R7W, Vernon Parish, LA described as follows: Begin at the NE corner of said E1/2 of NE1/4 of NE1/4; thence North 89 degrees 04 minutes West-321.2 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes East- 258.53 feet for point of beginning; thence continue South 00 degrees 01 minutes East - 258.11 feet; thence South 89 degrees 04 minutes East 110.7 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes East- 195.54 feet; thence North 89 degrees 04 minutes West - 446.99 feet; thence South 89 degrees 04 minutes East 336.73 feet to the point of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A part of the E1/2 of NE1/4 of NE1/4 of Sec. 5, T3N, R7W, Vernon Parish, LA described as follows: Begin at 4" x 4" concrete post marking the NE corner NE1/4 of NE1/4, Sec. 5 T3N, R7W; thence proceed S00 degrees 02 minutes 27 seconds East, a distance of 1322.63 feet to a 4"x4" concrete post; thence turn right and proceed North 89 degrees 20 minutes 04 seconds West, a distance of 326.62 feet to a nail in Calcasieu Loop marking the point of beginning of the tract to be described; thence continue North 89 degrees 20 minutes 04 seconds West, a distance of 330.93 feet to a 4"x4" concrete post; thence turn right and proceed North 00 degrees 04 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 613.68 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod; thence turn right and proceed South 89 degrees 04 minutes 03 seconds East, a distance of 446.42 feet to a 1/2 inch iron rod; thence turn right and proceed South 00 degrees 09 minutes 49 seconds West, a distance of 64.88 feet to a nail in Calcasieu Loop; thence turn right and proceed South 14 degrees 55 minutes 49 seconds West, along Calcasieu Loop, a distance of 163.67 feet to a nail; thence turn left and proceed South 10 degrees 35 minutes 16 seconds West, along Calcasieu Loop, a distance of 393.93 feet to the point of beginning.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 622

Owner: Danny R. Hardwick, et ux

Acres: 1.00

Begin at the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4 of NE1/4) of Section 4, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, and run South 2 degrees 00 minutes West 757.55 feet; thence run North 88 degrees 14 minutes West 661.95 feet to the Point of Beginning, thence continue North 88 degrees 14 minutes West 150 feet along the centerline of parish gravel road; thence South 10 degrees 31 minutes West 300 feet; thence South 88 degrees 14 minutes East 150 feet; thence North 10 degrees 31 minutes East 300 feet to Point of Beginning.

Being the same property recorded in Book 593, Page 725 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Tract: 623

Owner: Gilba Jenn B. Hardwick

Acres: 44.00

Begin at the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4; thence run N to the center line of the public road; thence run along the center line of said road to the W side of the 40 acre tract; thence run S to the SW corner of the 40 acre tract; thence run E back to the point of beginning, being all of that portion of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4 lying S of the public road; also, begin at the NE corner of the NE 1/4 and run S to the center line of said road; thence to the W side of said 40 acres; thence N to the NE corner of said 40; thence E to the point of beginning, being all of that portion of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4 lying N of the public road; also, five acres in the NE corner of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 4.

Being the same property recorded in Book 485, Page 132 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 624

Owner: Eloise Marshall

Acres: 10.00

**Township 3 North, Range 7 West
Section 3**

BEGINNING at a point 350 feet West of the SE corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said section;

THENCE, North a distance of 597 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 730 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 597 feet;

**THENCE, East a distance of 730 feet back to the Point of Beginning and containing 10.00 acres,
more or less,**

**Being the same property recorded in Book 481, Page 636 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish,
Louisiana.**

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 563

Owner: Ruth Duke Holt

Acres: 24.00

A Part of the East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 22, Township 4 North Range 8 West, Vernon Parish, LA, described as follows:

Begin at the Southwest Corner of said East 1/2; thence North 0 degrees 40 minutes West along the West line of said East 1/2 - 1834.4 feet; thence North 89 degrees 39 minutes East - parallel to the North line of said East 1/2 - 572.2 feet; Thence South 0 degrees 40 minutes East - parallel to said West line - 1837.7 feet to the South line of said East 1/2; thence West along said South Line - 572.2 feet to point of beginning, consisting of 24 acres more or less.

Being the same property referenced in Book 556, Page 239 and Book 996, Page 342 Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana;

Tract: 584

Owner: Ruth Duke Holt

Acres: 24.00

A part of the East One-Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:

Begin at the Northwest corner of said East One-Half - Thence N 89° 39' East along the North line of said East One-Half - 1318.5 feet to the Northeast Corner of said East One-Half; thence S 0° 41' East along the East line of said East One-Half - 796.1 feet; Thence S 89° 39' West - parallel to said North line - 1318.9 feet to the West line of said East One-Half; Thence N 0° 40' West along said West line - 796.1 feet to Point of Beginning and containing 24.00 acres, more or less;

Being the same property referenced in Book 556, Page 236, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

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Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 618

Owner: Sherrod Fisher Mitcham
& Thomas Alvin Mitcham

Acres: 20.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 12

N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 20.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property recorded in Conveyance Book 560, Page 753, Conveyance Book 752, Page 115, Conveyance Book 752, Page 403, Conveyance Book 853, Page 582, and Conveyance Book 892, Page 123, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Tract: 619

Owner: Sherrod Fisher Mitcham
& Thomas Alvin Mitcham

Acres: 37.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 7 West
Section 20

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 40.00 acres, Less and Except 5.00 acres;

Also that portion of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ described by the following:

Beginning at the NE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, South a distance of 420.00';

THENCE, West a distance of 210.00';

THENCE, North a distance of 420.00';

THENCE, East a distance of 210.00' to the POB and containing 2.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property referenced in Book 853, Page 582, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 630

Owner: Lynette Martin

Acres: 2.00

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Sections 4 & 5

BEGINNING at the NW corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 4, of said Township and Range;

THENCE, North a distance of 105 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 210 feet;

THENCE, South a distance of 330 feet;

THENCE, East a distance of 294 feet;

THENCE, North a distance of 225 feet;

THENCE, West a distance of 84 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing 2.00 acres, more or less, as recorded in Book 686, Page 248, Book 750, Page 439, and Book 770, Page 297 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 618

Owner: Sherrod Fisher Mitcham
& Thomas Alvin Mitcham

Acres: 20.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 8 West
Section 12

N $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 20.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property recorded in Conveyance Book 560, Page 753, Conveyance Book 752, Page 115, Conveyance Book 752, Page 403, Conveyance Book 853, Page 582, and Conveyance Book 892, Page 123, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Tract: 619

Owner: Sherrod Fisher Mitcham
& Thomas Alvin Mitcham

Acres: 37.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 7 West
Section 20

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 40.00 acres, Less and Except 5.00 acres;

Also that portion of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ described by the following:

Beginning at the NE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, South a distance of 420.00';

THENCE, West a distance of 210.00';

THENCE, North a distance of 420.00';

THENCE, East a distance of 210.00' to the POB and containing 2.00 acres more or less;

Being the same property referenced in Book 853, Page 582, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 563

Owner: Ruth Duke Holt

Acres: 24.00

A Part of the East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 22, Township 4 North Range 8 West, Vernon Parish, LA, described as follows:

Begin at the Southwest Corner of said East 1/2; thence North 0 degrees 40 minutes West along the West line of said East 1/2 - 1834.4 feet; thence North 89 degrees 39 minutes East - parallel to the North line of said East 1/2 - 572.2 feet; Thence South 0 degrees 40 minutes East- parallel to said West line - 1837.7 feet to the South line of said East 1/2; thence West along said South Line - 572.2 feet to point of beginning, consisting of 24 acres more or less.

Being the same property referenced in Book 556, Page 239 and Book 996, Page 342 Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana;

Tract: 584

Owner: Ruth Duke Holt

Acres: 24.00

A part of the East One-Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:

Begin at the Northwest corner of said East One-Half - Thence N 89° 39' East along the North line of said East One-Half - 1318.5 feet to the Northeast Corner of said East One-Half; thence S 0° 41' East along the East line of said East One-Half- 796.1 feet; Thence S 89° 39' West- parallel to said North line - 1318.9 feet to the West line of said East One-Half; Thence N 0° 40' West along said West line - 796.1 feet to Point of Beginning and containing 24.00 acres, more or less;

Being the same property referenced in Book 556, Page 236, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 633

Owner: Monyca Malave

Acres: 2.472

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a 4 inch pipe filled with concrete found at the Southwest Corner of Section 34, Township 4 North, Range 7 West, thence bear North 00°21'24" East for 1323.54 feet to a 1 ½ inch pipe found, thence bear South 89°4'35" East for 245.82 feet to a ½ inch rod set that is henceforth referred to as the POINT OF BEGINNING. Thence from the POINT OF BEGINNING continue South 89°24'35" East for 415.94 feet to a ½ inch rod set, thence bear South 00°21'24" West for 156.32 feet to a ½ inch rod set; thence continue South 00°21'24" West for 15.00 feet to the center of a gravel road (Roger Parker Road), thence bear along center of said road South 67°46'03" West for 327.87 feet to a point and South 66°59'42" West for 123.33 feet to a point, thence leaving said road bear North 00°21'24" East for 15.00 feet to a ½ inch rod set, thence continue North 00°21'24" East for 332.86 feet back to POINT OF BEGINNING, as shown on plat of survey by Stephen Barret Gremillion date July 20, 2007 and attached to Deed dated September 19, 2007, filed for record under Instrument Number 601202, and in Conveyance Book 1265, Page 74, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana and containing 2.472 acres, more or less, as recorded in Book 518, Page 743, and Book 1265, Page 74 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 629

Owner: Donald R. and Nancy Lewis

Acres: 40.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

All property described herein is located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana:
From the point that is common to Section 2, 3, 34 and 35, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, thence run South 0 degrees 09 minutes 04 seconds East a distance of 1,300.45 feet along the dividing line between Section 2 and 3 to the Point of Beginning of the common boundary description herein; from the Point of Beginning thus established, thence continue in the same direction a distance of 1,300.45 feet to a point; thence run South 89 degrees 21 minutes 04 seconds East a distance of 1,323.87 feet to a point; thence run North 0 degrees 09 minutes 52 seconds West a distance of 1,307.02 feet to a point; thence run North 89 degrees 38 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of 1,323.49 feet back to the point of Beginning. Said common boundary line being outline in heavy blue lines on a Plat of Survey by Jerry W. Boswell, dated March 31, 1988 and attached to a certain Boundary Agreement filed of record under Instrument Number 446801, and in Conveyance Book 688, Page 349, records of Vernon Parish, State of Louisiana. Said Boundary line also enclosing the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 626

**Owner: James Wayne Cavanaugh and
Jerry Lynn Cavanaugh**

Acres: 40.00

**Township 3 North, Range 7 West
Section 8
SE¼NW¼**

**Being the same property recorded in Book , Page of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish,
Louisiana.**

EXHIBIT A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 564

Owner: Sanders, Linda Duke

Acres: 24.00

A part of the East One-Half of the NW1/4 of Section 22, Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:

Begin at the SW corner of said East One-Half - thence East along the South Line of said East One-Half - 572.2 feet for Point of Beginning; thence continue East along said South line - 297.9 feet to the centerline of La. Hy. No. 117 (Leesville-Kurthwood Highway); thence North 16° 46' East along said centerline 1499.1 feet to its intersection with the East line of said East One-Half; thence North 0° 41' West along said East line - 406.9 feet; thence South 89° 39' West - parallel to and 796.1 feet from the North line of said East One-Half 746.6 feet; thence South 0° 40' East parallel to and 572.2 feet from the West line of said East One-Half - 1837.7 feet to Point of Beginning, and containing 24.00 acres, more or less.

Being the same property referenced in Book 713, Page 447, Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 556

Owner: Michael P. Rivers

Acres: 6.869

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 3 North, Range 9 West
Section 12

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, S89°24'E a distance of 125.00';

THENCE, S00°36'W a distance of 1320.85' to a point on the South line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, N89°24'W a distance of 125.00';

THENCE, N00°36'E a distance of 1320.85' to the POB, containing 3.79 acres, Less and Except 1.89 acres;

Township 3 North, Range 9 West
Section 12

The North 264.00' of the E/2 of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing four acres.

Township 3 North, Range 9 West
Section 12

Commencing at a 1" iron pipe marking the NW corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

THENCE, N89°57'46"E, a distance of 125.00' to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod marking the POB of the tract to be described;

THENCE, N89°57'46"E, a distance of 138.47' to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod;

THENCE, S03°50'05"W, a distance of 98.16' to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod;

THENCE, S14°36'28" W, a distance of 243.23' to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod;

THENCE, S25°26'37"W, a distance of 163.27' to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod;

THENCE, N00°02'58"W, a distance of 480.66' to the POB, containing 0.969 acres more or less;

Being the same property referenced in Book 766, Page 717; Book 808, Page 206; Book 964, Page 675; Book 966, Page 80 deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 546

Owner: Scott and Marjorie Cooper Doherty

Acres: 58.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Township 4 North, Range 8 West

Section 31

N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ LESS AND EXCEPT two and one fifth acres out of the NW portion of said $\frac{1}{4}$ section;

Being a portion of the same property acquired by Scott Heywood Doherty and Marjorie Ima Cooper by Cash Warranty Deed from Ronnie R. Dunn and Patricia Lynn Dunn filed and dated December 28, 2001 in Conveyance Book 1014, Page 169, #552295, records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 642

Owner: Bonnie Jackson

Acres: 3.00

A tract of land situated in the SE/4 of the NW/4 of NE/4, Section 10, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, described as follows: Start at the NE Corner of NW/4 of NE/4 and run South 1° 52' 13" West, 886.60 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing along same line (South 1° 52' 13" W), 450.00 feet; thence North 89° 02' 23" West, 235.00 feet; thence North 1° 52' 13" East, 450.00 feet; South 89° 02' 23" East, 235.00 feet back to Point of Beginning.

Being the same property recorded in Book 688, Page 461 and Book 770, Page 254 of the deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

Exhibit A

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 635

Owner: William Joseph Borton

Acres: 2.00

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 4

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of the East half of the Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter (E½ NE¼ NE¼) of Section 5, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana,

THENCE, North 89°04'00" West along the North line a distance of 321.2 feet for the Point of Beginning;

THENCE, North 89°04'00" West along said North line a distance of 337 feet;

THENCE, South 00°04'00" East a distance of 258.53 feet;

THENCE, South 89°04'00" East a distance of 336.73 feet;

THENCE, North 00°01'00" West a distance of 258.53 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing 2.00 acres, more or less;

Being the same property recorded in Book 722, Page 48, Book 1010, Page 70, Book 1053, Page 247, Book 1059, Page 774, Book 1188, Page 329, and Book 1396, Page 61 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 631

Owner: Richard Darence Johnson

Acres: 15.00

A tract of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon, located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of the North half of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter (N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$), of Section 4, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana,

THENCE, South 00°18'32" East a distance of 660.27 feet;

THENCE, North 89°47'55" West a distance of 1322.15 feet;

THENCE, North 00°04'23" West a distance of 154.76 feet to a point in the center line of existing Parish road;

THENCE, along said center line North 54°10'40" a distance of 191.35 feet;

THENCE, North 59°49'59" East a distance of 778.09 feet;

THENCE, South 89°45'00" East a distance of 490.92 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing 15.00 acres, more or less, as recorded in Book 341, Page 245, Book 802, Page 575, Book 868, Page 555, Book 926, Page 190, Book 1188, Page 591, and Book 1417, Page 71, of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 636
Owner: Billie Edwards
Acres: 4.00

That certain tract of land consisting of 4.00 acres, more or less, recorded in the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, said tract being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of Section 5, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana,

THENCE, South along the East line a distance of 555.8 feet;

THENCE, North 89°04'00" West a distance of 210 feet;

THENCE, North 00°01'00" West a distance of 38.7 feet;

THENCE, North 89°04'00" West a distance of 110.7 feet;

THENCE, North 00°01'00" West a distance of 517.1 feet to the North line of section 5;

THENCE, South 89°04'00" East along the North line a distance of 321.2 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing 4.00 acres, more or less, as recorded in Book 512, Page 553, of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 637
Owner: Richard Brannon Edwards, et ux
Acres: 5.00

**Township 3 North, Range 7 West
Section 4 - Parcel 1:**

NW/C NW¼NW¼, that portion described as follows:
Thence South 89°45'00" East 200.50' for POB;

Thence South 89°45'00" East 628.03';

Thence South 59°49'59" West 725.86';

Thence North 00°04'23" West 367.50' to POB;

Section 4 - Parcel 2:

NW/C NW¼NW¼, for POB, that portion described as follows:

Thence South 89°45'00" East 200.50';

Thence South 00°04'23" West 367.50';

Thence South 59°49'59" West 52.83';

Thence South 54°10'40" West 191.35'

Thence North 00°04'23" West 506.61' to POB;

Being the same property recorded in Book 860, Page 350, Book 1389, Page 154, and Book 1131, Page 141, of the deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 638

Owner: Edwards, Sammy Joe, et ux

Acres: 10.00

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 5-Parcel 1

COMMENCING at the Northeast corner of the E $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said section;
THENCE, North 89°04'00" West a distance of 321.2 feet;
THENCE, South 00°01'00" East a distance of 258.53 feet for the Point of Beginning;
THENCE, South 00°01'00" East a distance of 258.11 feet;
THENCE, South 89°04'00" East a distance of 110.7 feet;
THENCE, South 00°01'00" East a distance of 195.54 feet;
THENCE, North 89°04'00" West a distance of 446.60 feet;
THENCE, North 00°04'00" West a distance of 453.99 feet;
THENCE, South 89°04'00" East a distance of 336.73 feet to the Point of Beginning

Section 5-Parcel 2

COMMENCING at a 4"X4" concrete post marking the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said section;
THENCE, South 00°02'27" East a distance of 1322.63 feet to a 4"X4" concrete post;
THENCE, turn right and proceed North 89°20'04" West a distance of 326.62 feet to a nail in Calcasieu Loop marking the Point of Beginning of the parcel to be described ;
THENCE, North 89°20'04" West a distance of 330.93 feet to a 4"X4" concrete post;
THENCE, Turn right and proceed North 00°04'00" West a distance of 613.68 feet to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod;
THENCE, turn right and proceed South 89°04'03" East a distance of 446.42 feet to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " iron rod;
THENCE, turn right and proceed South 00°09'49" West a distance of 64.88 feet to a nail in Calcasieu Loop;
THENCE, turn right and proceed South 14°55'49" West along Calcasieu Loop a distance of 163.67 feet to a nail;
THENCE, turn left and proceed South 10°35'16" West; along Calcasieu Loop a distance of 393.93 feet to the Point of Beginning;
Being the same property recorded in Book 1283, Page 252 of the Deed Records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Exhibit A

**FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana**

Tract: 640 Owner: Parker, Robert Matthew and Kaydee Michelle Acres: 16.00

All the property described herein is located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana:

All that portion of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 11, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, lying West of the public road, containing 16 acres more or less.

Being the same property recorded in Book 646, Page 514 and Book 1143, Page 340 of the deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

Fort Polk Land Acquisition Tract 643

EXHIBIT "A"

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 643
Acres: 13.00

Owner: Connie Diane Brower Perrine

Township 3 North, Range 7 West
Section 10

BEGINNING at the NE/C SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Thence South 915';

Thence West 619';

Thence North 915';

Thence East 619' to the Point of Beginning, containing 13.00 acres, more or less;

Being the same property recorded in Book 446, Page 369 of the deed records of Vernon Parish, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT "A"

FORT POLK LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM

Owner: Meridian Land and Mineral Corporation Acres: 8,009 More or Less

**Tracts of land, together with any and all buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereon,
located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:**

Tract: 601

Township 4 North, Range 7 West

Section 21

a) Entire Section

Section 22

b) Entire Section

Section 23

c) W ½

Section 26

d) NW ¼ of the NW ¼

e) S ½ of the NW ¼

f) SW ¼

Section 27

g) Entire Section

Section 28

h) Entire Section

Section 33

i) Entire Section

Section 34

j) Entire Section, LESS AND EXCEPT SW ¼ of the SW ¼

Section 35

k) W ½

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 2

l) Entire Section, LESS AND EXCEPT SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 597.02 acres, more or less;

Section 3

m) N $\frac{1}{2}$, LESS AND EXCEPT 10 acres Grant

n) SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$

o) SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$

p) E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 4

q) NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$

r) S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N $\frac{1}{2}$, LESS AND EXCEPT 5 acres in the NE corner

s) S $\frac{1}{2}$

Section 9

t) Entire Section

Section 10

u) W $\frac{1}{2}$,

v) E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$

w) W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 11

x) W $\frac{1}{2}$

y) NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$

z) E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$

aa) NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$

bb) That portion of S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, lying west of HWY 8

Tract: 606

Township 3 North, Range 7 West

Section 8

a) E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$

EXHIBIT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Tract: 600

Owner: Crest Natural Resources, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company
Acres: 9,560.99 acres, more or less

Being all or part of those certain tract(s) of land described in that Warranty Deed from W.D. Wadley, et al to Alexandria Land & Lumber Company, Inc., a Louisiana Corporation, recorded in Book 223, Page 246, Document # 199763, Official Public Records, Vernon Parish, Louisiana and later merged by a Certificate of Merger from Alexandria Land and Lumber Company, Inc., a Louisiana Corporation into Crest Natural Resources, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, recorded in Book C24, Page 209, Document # 598147, Official Public Records, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, as follows (Tract 600):

Township 4 North, Range 8 West:

Section 24 - Entire Section

Section 25 - Entire Section

Section 35 - Entire Section

Section 36 - Entire Section

Township 4 North, Range 7 West:

Section 19 - Entire Section

Section 20 - S $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section; S $\frac{1}{4}$ of N $\frac{1}{4}$;

Section 29 - Entire Section

Section 30 - Entire Section

Section 31 - Entire Section

Section 32 - Entire Section, except the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Township 3 North, Range 8 West:

Section 1 - E $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section, E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ less SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 2 - N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section; SW $\frac{1}{4}$; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, LESS AND EXCEPT, 0.11 acres of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 12 - E $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section

Township 3 North, Range 7 West:

Section 5 - Entire Section except E $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 6 - Entire Section

Section 7 - Entire Section

Section 8 - N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Tract: 600C

Owner: Crest Natural Resources, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company
Acres: 0.11 acres, more or less

Being part of those certain tract(s) of land described in that Warranty Deed from W.D. Wadley, et al to Alexandria Land & Lumber Company, Inc., a Louisiana Corporation, recorded in Book 223, Page 246, Document # 199763, Official Public Records, Vernon Parish, Louisiana and later merged by a Certificate of Merger from Alexandria Land and Lumber Company, Inc., a Louisiana Corporation into Crest Natural Resources, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, recorded in Book C24, Page 209, Document # 598147, Official Public Records, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, as follows (Tract 600C):

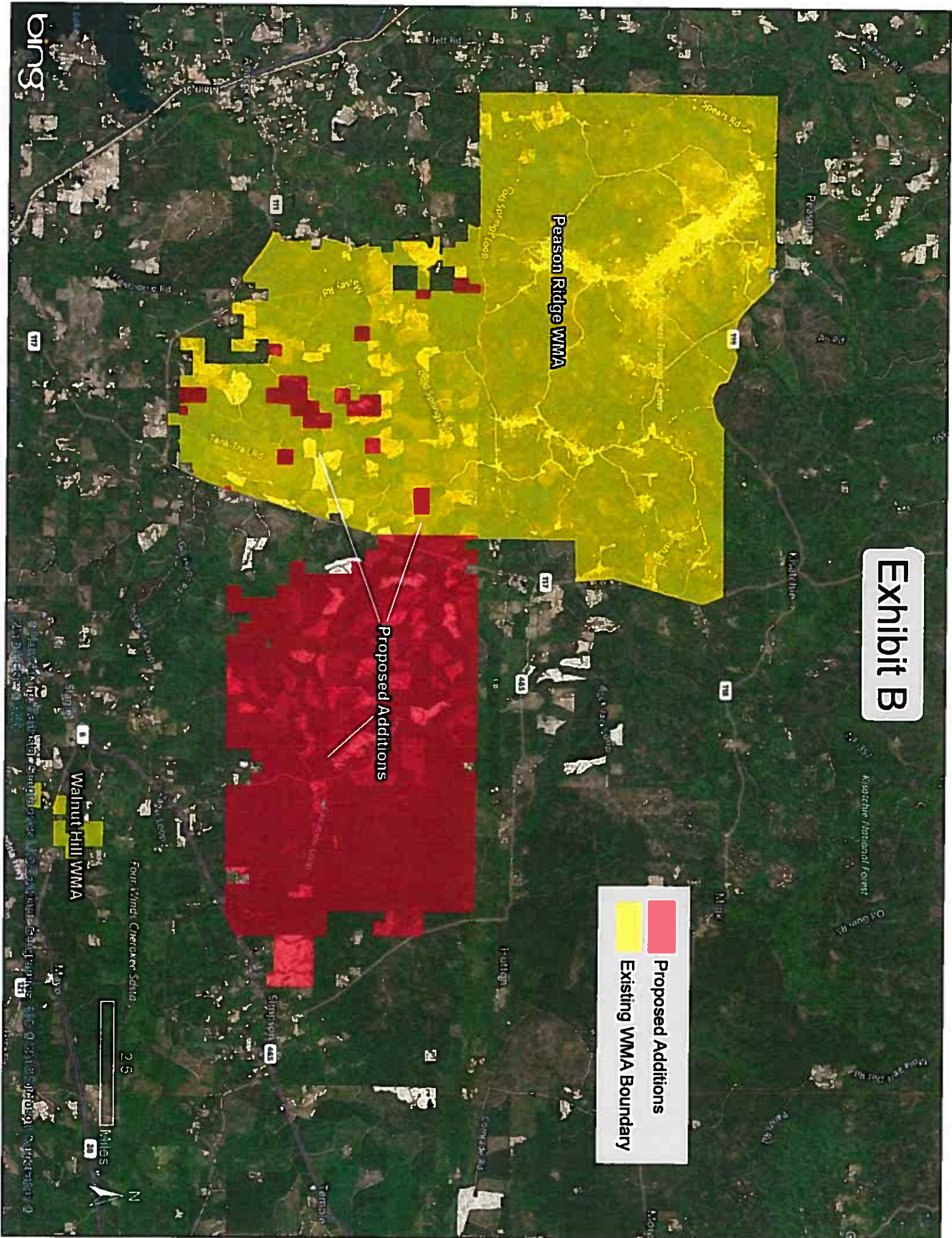
Township 3 North, Range 8 West

Section 2

A portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, containing 0.11 acres, more or less;

EXHIBIT B
Area Map

Exhibit B



RESOLUTION

Adding Certain Property to the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area

**Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
September 1, 2016**

WHEREAS, the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area was established by Proclamation of the Governor, dated April 22, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission through a Memorandum of Understanding for Execution of Assignment of Land with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of State Parks, have received 122.611 acres, more or less, of property comprising two (2) tracts of land situated in West Feliciana Parish and herein referred to as the OSP Tracts, to be operated and maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC), and incorporated into the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable wildlife habitat and its protection and proper management is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the State and provide for public and recreational use opportunities on these 122.611 acres of land, including water bottoms, that these lands and water bottoms be selected and established as a wildlife management area and are added to and included in the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission confirms and reaffirms that all State-owned and leased lands, including water bottoms (located within the property description of the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area as described in the Governor's Proclamation dated April 22, 1992), are selected and established as a wildlife management area; and

WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission selects all State-owned and leased lands, including water bottoms (located within the OSP Tracts, assigned on the 31st day of August, 2016, and as described in the attached "Exhibit A"), and all adjacent State-owned water bottoms be hereby added to and included in the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 109 and Section 781, *et seq.*, of the Revised Statutes of 1954, hereby confirms and reaffirms the selection and establishment of all State-owned and leased lands, including water bottoms located within the property description of the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area as described in the Governor's Proclamation dated April 22, 1992 as a wildlife management area; and selects and establishes all State-owned and leased lands, including water bottoms, located within the OSP Tracts, assigned on the 31st day of August, 2016, and as described in the attached "Exhibit A", and all adjacent State-owned water bottoms as a Wildlife Management Area, and is hereby added to and included in the Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes and, as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation, and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this resolution.

Bart R. Yakupzack, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Charles J. "Charlie" Melancon, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

EXHIBIT "A"

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

TRACT ONE: A certain tract or parcel of land, together with all buildings and improvements thereon and with all the rights, ways, privileges, servitude, prescriptions and advantages thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining, consisting of all of the property owned by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in Township 1 South, Range 4 West, Section 54, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, lying to the west and southwest of an artificial boundary identified as the Old L&A Rail Road grade and extending to the Mississippi River, said tract being illustrated as Tract 1 on the attached plat labeled as Exhibit I; and,

TRACT TWO: A certain tract or parcel of land, together with all buildings and improvements thereon and with all the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, prescriptions and advantages thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining, consisting of all of the property owned by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in Township 1 South, Range 4 West, Section 28 and 54, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, lying to the south and west of an artificial boundary identified as a road or trail known to the parties herein authorized, and commencing in the northwest corner of Section 54 and extending in a northeasterly direction into Section 28 and thereafter turning and extending in a southeasterly direction back to the section line common to Sections 28 and 54 and thereafter turning and extending in a southwesterly direction through Section 54 to the old L&A Rail Road grade, said tract being illustrated as Tract 2 on the attached plat labeled as Exhibit I.

These two (2) certain tracts of land containing 92.326 Acres, more or less, and designated as the "John Wren Tract" and 30.383 Acres of adjacent, more or less, designated as the "Teresa Hills State formerly M. Carrell Tract", together with all rights, ways, privileges and servitudes thereunto appertaining, situated in Sections 28, 54 and 54, T 1 S, R 4 W, Iberville Land District, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, and having such further measurements, dimensions, configurations and boundaries as are more fully shown on the attached plat of survey prepared by David

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Office of Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps (LAC 76:VII.367)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et. seq., and through the authority granted in R.S. 56:322(N), that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to amend LAC 76:VII.367 to temporarily close a portion of state inside waters to the use of crab traps in order to facilitate the removal of abandoned crab traps in these waters.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has amended the provisions in LAC 76:VII.367 governing the locations of temporary crab trap closures to address problems in portions of state waters resulting from large numbers of abandoned and derelict crab traps (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 30, Number 1; Volume 31, Number 1; Volume 32, Number 2; Volume 33, Number 1; Volume 34, Number 1; Volume 36, Number 1; Volume 38, Number 1; Volume 38, Number 12; Volume 40, Number 1; Volume 41, Number 1; Volume 42, Number 1). The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission now proposes to amend the provisions to describe a new portion of state waters to be temporarily closed to the use of crab traps for the purpose of conducting a crab trap cleanup.

LAC Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§367. Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited from 12:00 a.m., Monday, February 20, 2017 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2017 within that portion of Jefferson Parish, Lafourche Parish, Orleans Parish, Plaquemines Parish, St. Bernard Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany Parish, and Tangipahoa Parish, as described below:

Areas seaward out to the inside/outside shrimp line from a point originating at the intersection of Interstate 10 at the Mississippi/Louisiana State Line westward along Interstate 10 to its intersection with Interstate 12. Thence westward along Interstate 12 to the intersection of Interstate 55; Thence southward along Interstate 55 to its intersection with Interstate 10; thence eastward along Interstate 10 to its intersection with Interstate 310; thence southward along Interstate 310 to its intersection with Louisiana Highway 90; thence westward along Highway 90 to its intersection with Bayou Lafourche; thence southward along Bayou Lafourche to Belle Pass.

B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited from 12:00 a.m., Monday, March 6, 2017 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, 2017 within that portion of Acadia Parish, Assumption Parish, Calcasieu Parish, Cameron Parish, Iberia Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, Lafayette Parish, Lafourche Parish, St. Martin Parish, St. Mary Parish, Terrebonne Parish and Vermilion Parish, and as described below:

Areas seaward out to the inside/outside shrimp line from a point originating at Belle Pass northward along Bayou Lafourche to its intersection with Louisiana Highway 90; thence westward along Highway 90 to its intersection with Interstate 10; thence westward along Interstate 10 to its intersection with the Texas/Louisiana State Line.

C. All crab traps remaining in the closed area during the specified period shall be considered abandoned. These trap removal regulations do not provide authorization for access to private property; authorization to access private property can only be provided by individual landowners. Crab traps may be removed only between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel or its designees are authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps within the closed area. No person removing crab traps from the designated closed areas during the closure periods shall possess these traps outside of the closed

area. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to designate disposal sites.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332(N).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 30:101 (January 2004), amended LR 31:108 (January 2005), LR 32:266 (February 2006), LR 33:113 (January 2007), LR 34:97 (January 2008), LR 36:77 (January, 2010), LR 38:146 (January, 2012), LR 38:12 (December, 2012), LR 40:96 (January, 2014), LR 41:154 (January, 2015), LR 42:70 (January, 2016).

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Family Impact Statement

In accordance with Act 1183 of 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of

Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S.49:973.

Provider Impact Statement

This Rule has no known impact on providers as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed Rule to Mr. Jeff Marx, Marine Fisheries Biologist DCL-B, Marine Fisheries Section, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560, or via email to jmarx@wlf.la.gov prior to November 1, 2016.

Bart Yakupzack, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

Date Signed

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person
Preparing

Statement: Jack C. Isaacs
Phone: (225) 765 - 2605

Dept: Wildlife & Fisheries
Office: Fisheries

Return

Address: Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Rule
Title: 2017 Removal of Abandoned Crab
Traps

Date Rule
Takes Effect: Upon Promulgation

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. The following summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, will be published in the Louisiana Register with the proposed agency rule.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change will have no impact on state or local governmental unit expenditures.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule change is anticipated to have no impact on revenue collections of the state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule change would prohibit the use of crab traps within portions of Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Saint Bernard, Saint Charles, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Tammany, and Tangipahoa parishes from 12:00 a.m., February 20, 2017 through 11:59 p.m., March 7, 2017 and within portions of Acadia, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Saint Martin, Saint Mary, Terrebonne, and Vermilion parishes from 12:00 a.m., March 6, 2017 through 11:59 p.m., March 21, 2017. During the closures, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or its designees could remove and destroy all crab traps remaining in the water within the designated areas.

Crab fishermen who utilize the area proposed for closure will incur lost fishing time during the designated period and encounter additional costs from having to temporarily remove their traps. These crab fishermen must either move their traps to open fishing areas or remove their traps from the water for the duration of the closure. Traps that are not removed within the allotted time will be destroyed, potentially creating an additional cost to replace the traps for noncompliant fishermen.

Local seafood dealers, processors and consumers may experience a slight decrease in the availability of fresh crabs during the closure, resulting in a slightly higher price for fresh crabs in the short term. However, the crab resource will not be lost or harmed in any way and will be available for harvest when the closed area is reopened.

The removal of abandoned crab traps should provide improved fishing and reduced fishing costs for recreational saltwater fishermen, commercial fishermen and individuals who operate vessels within the designated by reducing encounters with abandoned traps that often result in lost fishing time and damage to the vessel's lower unit or fishing gear. The removal of abandoned crab traps will reduce the mortality of and injuries to crabs and by-catch that become ensnared and die in these traps.

The overall impact of the proposed area closure is anticipated to be minimal because the closure would occur during the time of the year with lowest harvests and adjacent waters will remain open for crab fishermen to continue to fish.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

Since waters adjacent to the closure area will remain open for crab harvest and fishermen who fish during this time period are expected to relocate their traps, effects on competition and employment are expected to be negligible.

Signature of Agency Head or Designee

Bryan McClinton, Undersecretary
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head
or Designee

Date of Signature

Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee

Date of Signature



DERELICT CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM AND 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

September 1, 2016
Baton Rouge, LA

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Legislation (LA R.S. 56:332)

Commission to designate:

- Area of trap closure
- Who will pick traps up
- Disposal sites
- Dates of trap closure

Authorized Dates:

- Winter – up to 16 days between Feb 1 – Mar 31
- Spring – up to 14 days in conjunction with inshore shrimp season opening



2004 - 2016



2004-2016 Trap Cleanup Results

Year	Area(s)	Traps	Boat-days
2004	2	6,894	90+
2005	4	4,623	50+
2006	1	2,935	31+
2007	2	1,495	15
2008	1	1,234	3
2009	1	788	NA
2010	1	477	NA
2011	1	1,100	NA
2012	2	2,798	66
2013	2	969	32
2014	1	1,051	24
2015	1	422	9
2016	2	2,580	31+
Total	21	27,366	351+









CRAB TRAP CLOSURE 2017



CLOSING
March 6th, 2017
12:00am

CLOSING
February 20th, 2017
12:00am

N
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



State Boundary

Closed 12:00am February 20th through March 7th at 11:59pm

Closed 12:00am March 6th through March 21st at 11:59pm

2017 Derelict Trap Program Recommendations

Area/Time

- Eastern Louisiana including portions of Jefferson Parish, Lafourche Parish, Orleans Parish, Plaquemines Parish, St. Bernard Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany Parish, and Tangipahoa Parish
- 12:00 am Feb 20 – 11:59 pm Mar 7, 2017

Volunteer Days

- Saturday Feb 25, 2017
- Saturday Mar 4, 2017

Other

- Remaining traps are considered abandoned
- LDWF or designees may retrieve traps
- Traps may be removed between ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset
- Traps cannot be possessed outside of closure area
- Traps must be brought to designated disposal sites





2017 Derelict Trap Program Recommendations

Area/Time

- Western Louisiana including portions of Acadia Parish, Assumption Parish, Calcasieu Parish, Cameron Parish, Iberia Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, Lafayette Parish, Lafourche Parish, St. Martin Parish, St. Mary Parish, Terrebonne Parish and Vermilion Parish
- **12:00 am Mar 6 – 11:59 pm Feb Mar 21, 2017**
- Volunteer Days (Terrebonne/Lafourche Parishes)
 - **Saturday Mar 11, 2017**
 - **Saturday Mar 18, 2017**

Other

- Remaining traps are considered abandoned
- LDWF or designees may retrieve traps
- Traps may be removed between ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset
- Traps cannot be possessed outside of closure area
- Traps must be brought to designated disposal sites





QUESTIONS?





2016 Oyster Stock Assessment of the Public Oyster Areas of Louisiana

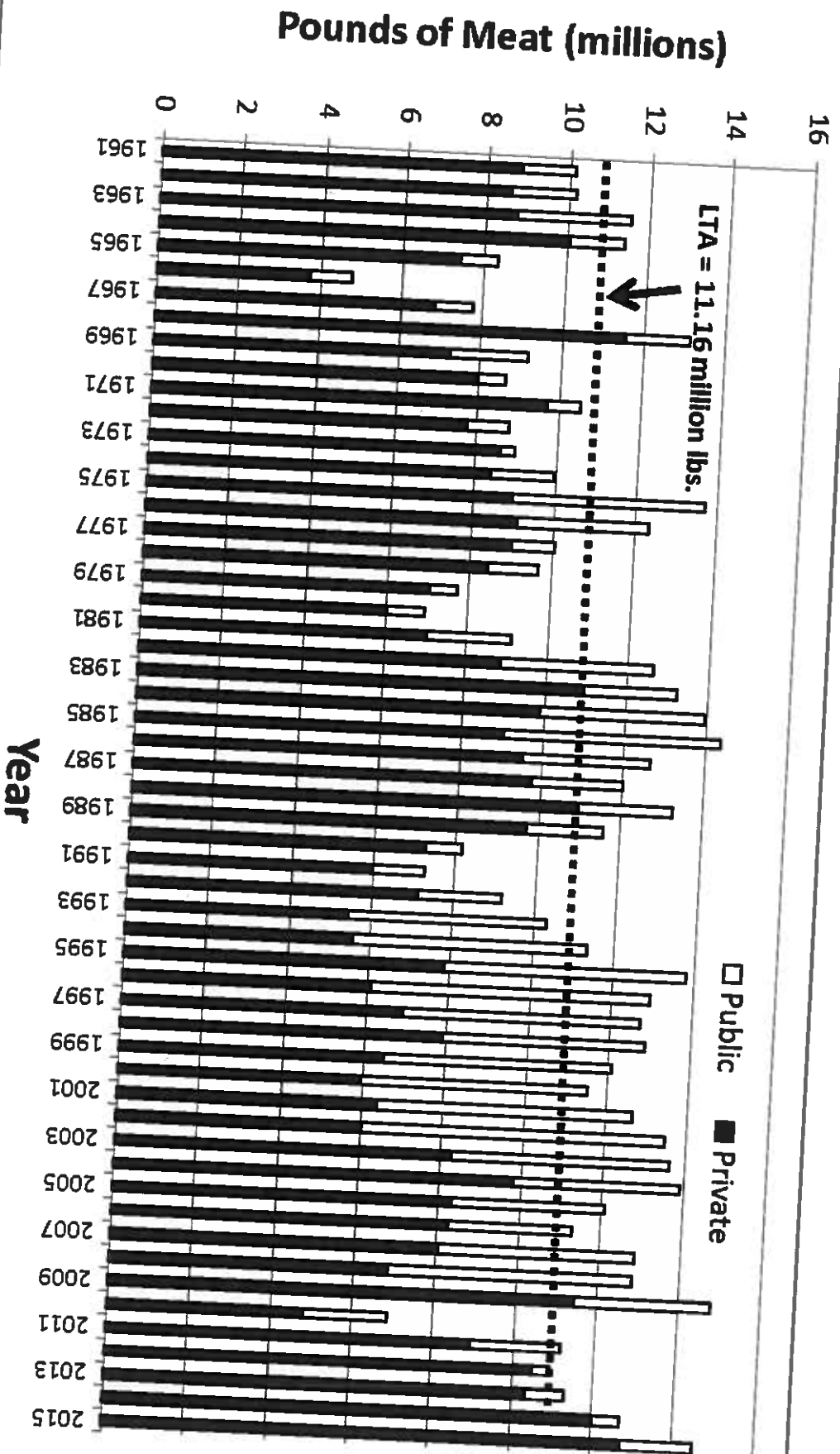
**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
September 1, 2016**

OVERVIEW

- Historical oyster harvest (landings)
- Management goals
- Oyster stock size estimate
- Oyster stock distribution among public oyster areas
- Oyster season recommendations



Historical Louisiana Oyster Landings



PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MANAGEMENT GOALS

- Manage, conserve, and promote the wise use of the public oyster resource
- Provide seed oysters (< 3") for transplant to leases
- Provide sack oysters to be taken directly to market

How?

- Habitat enhancement (cultch planting = reef rehabilitation)
- Harvest restrictions/regulations
- Enforcement
- Recommend seasonal framework
- Biological sampling (determines annual oyster stock size)

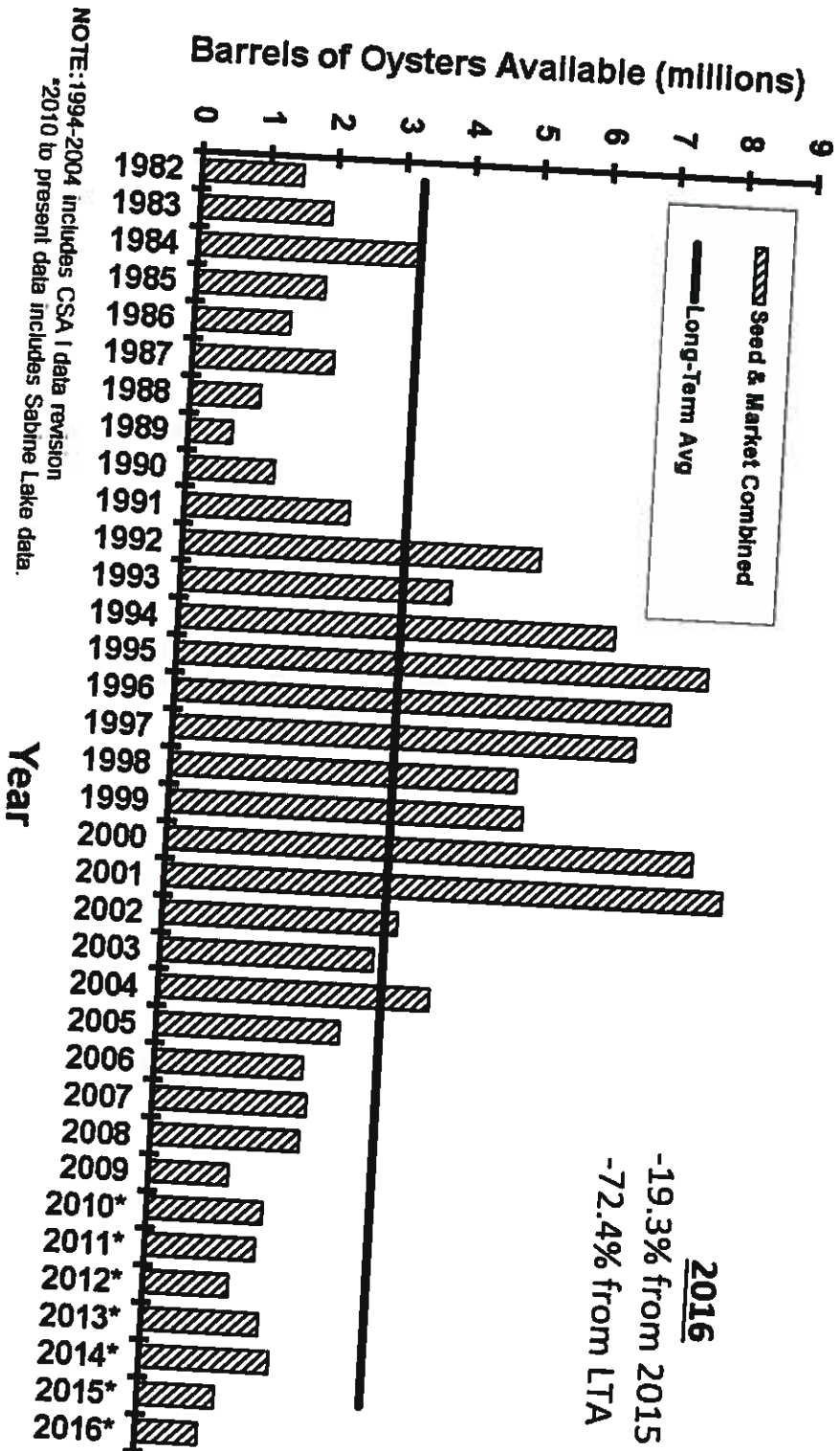


- Sampling performed in July 20
- 112 sampling sites visited
- 560 total m² samples collected

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

April 2, 2007

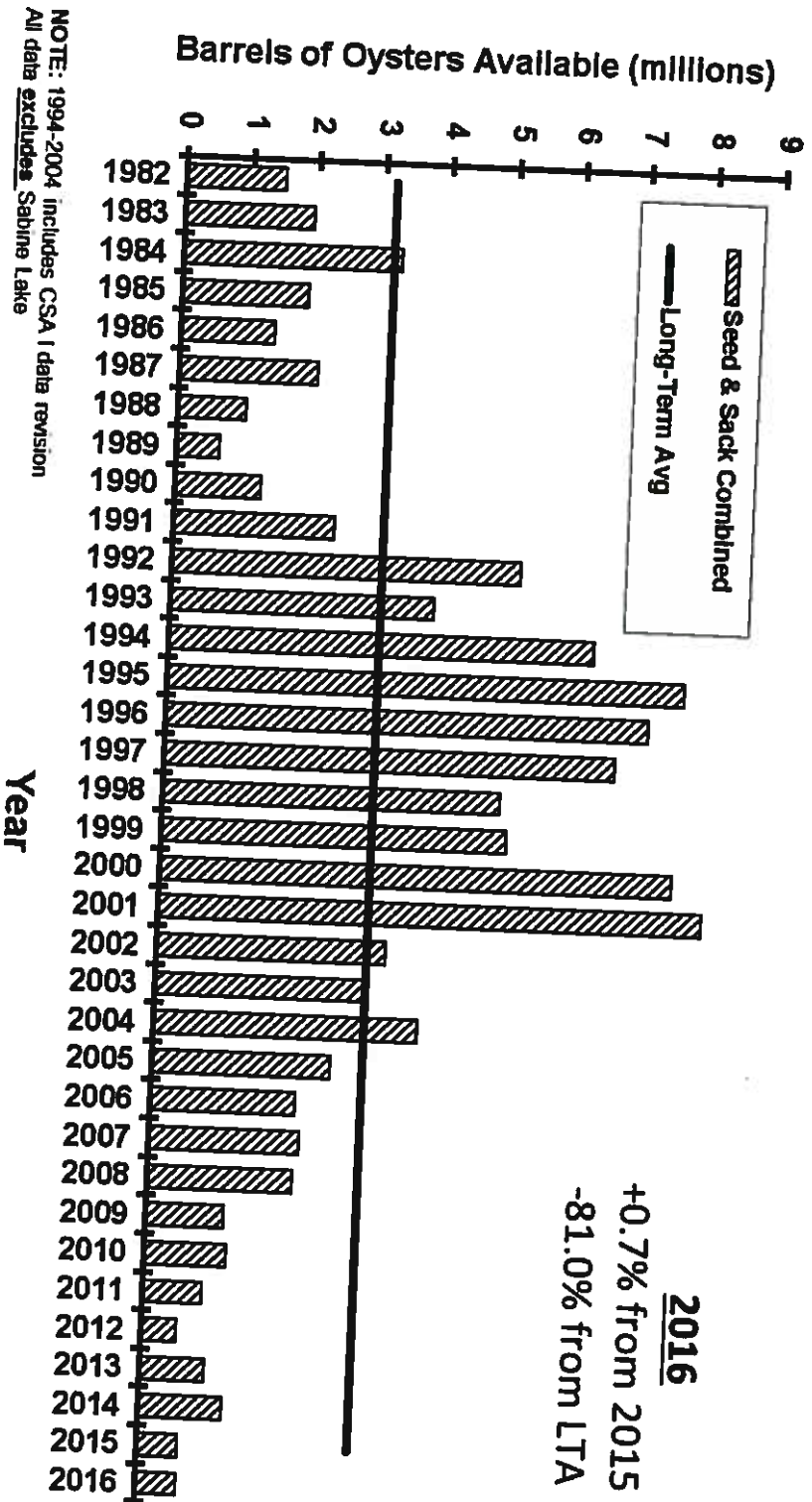
STOCK ASSESSMENT RESULTS



Preliminary data – subject to revision



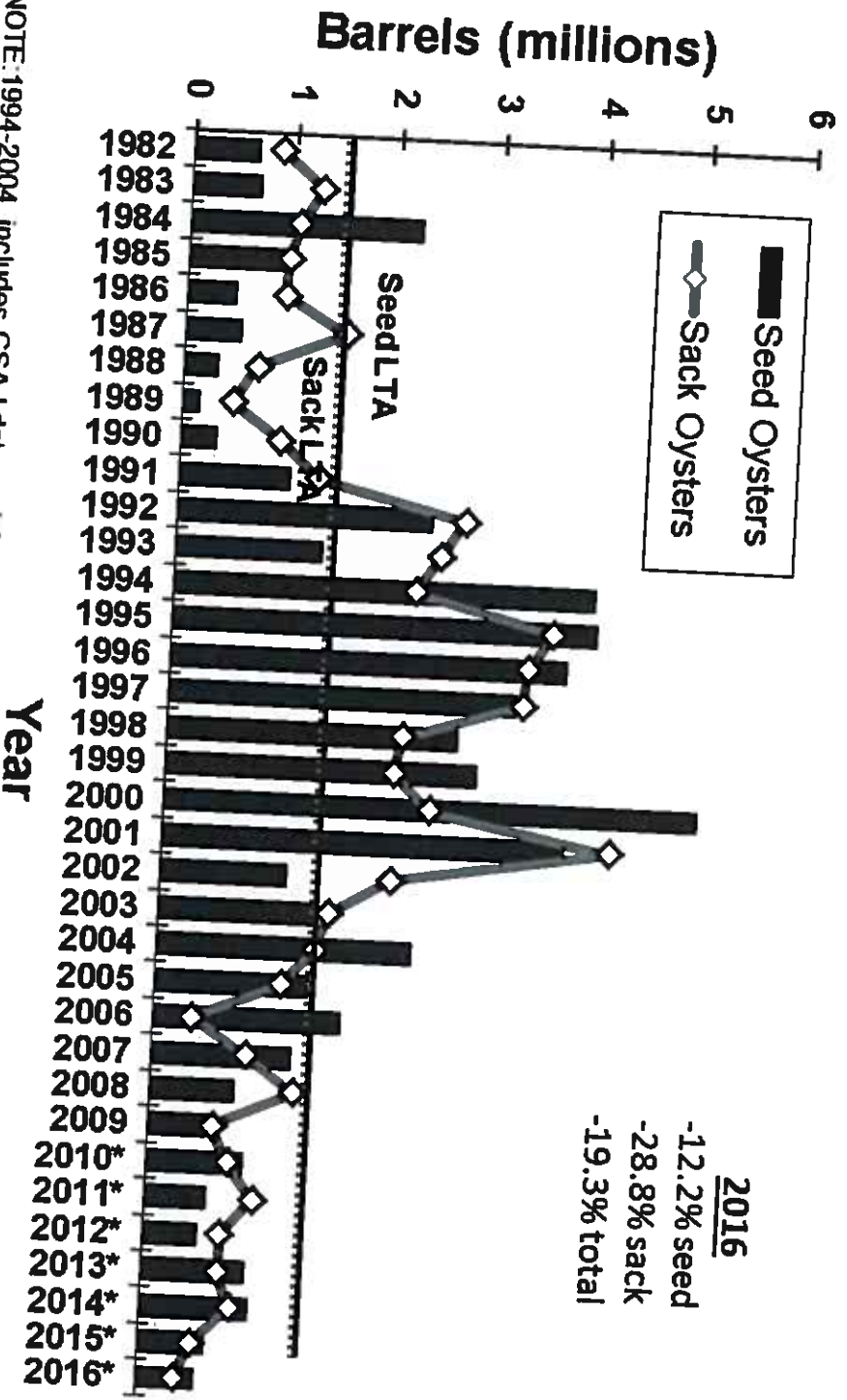
STOCK ASSESSMENT RESULTS: Excluding Sabine Lake



Preliminary data – subject to revision



STOCK ASSESSMENT RESULTS

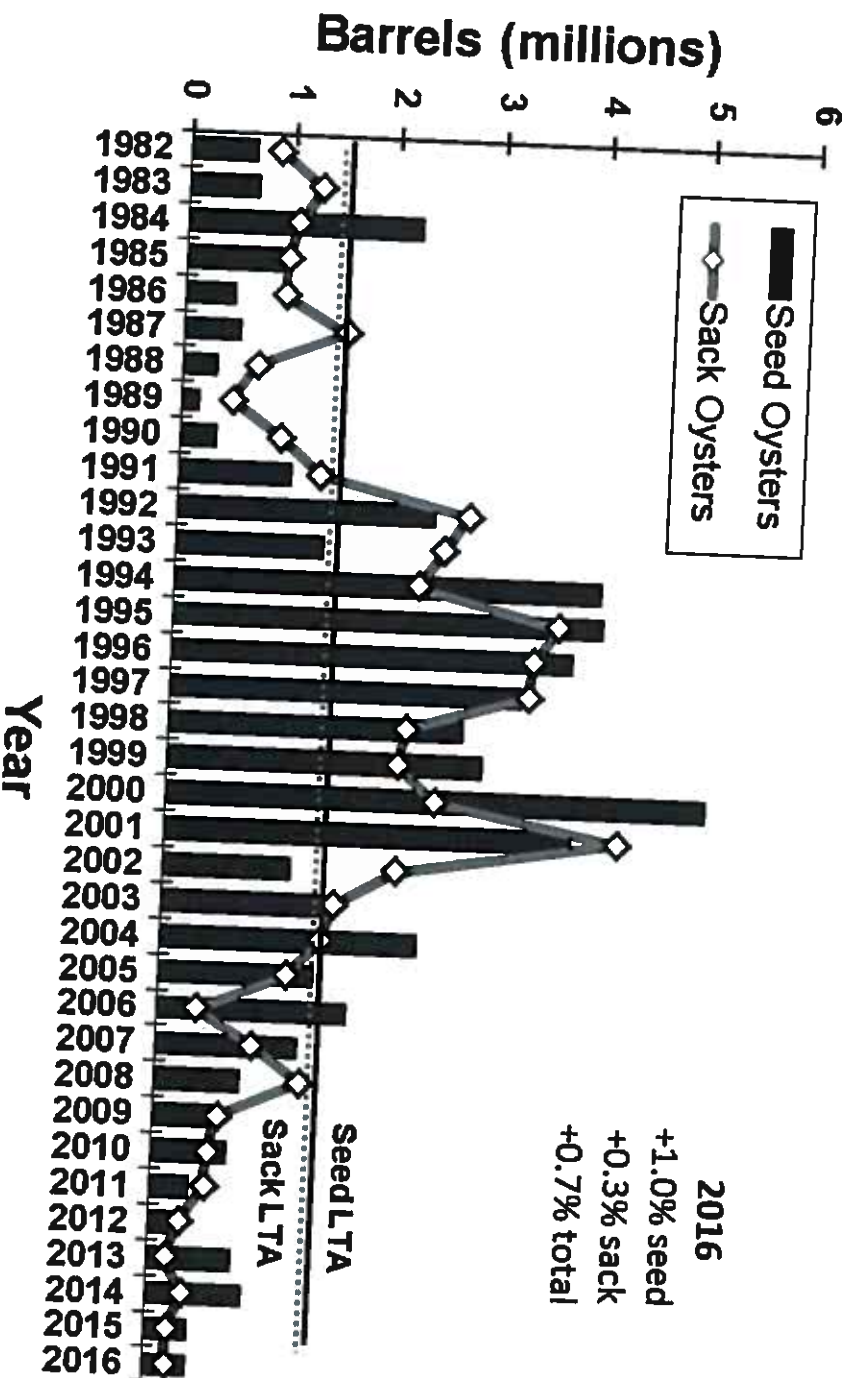


NOTE: 1994-2004 includes CSA I data revision
 * 2010 to present data includes Sabine Lake data

Preliminary data – subject to revision



STOCK ASSESSMENT RESULTS: Excluding Sabine Lake



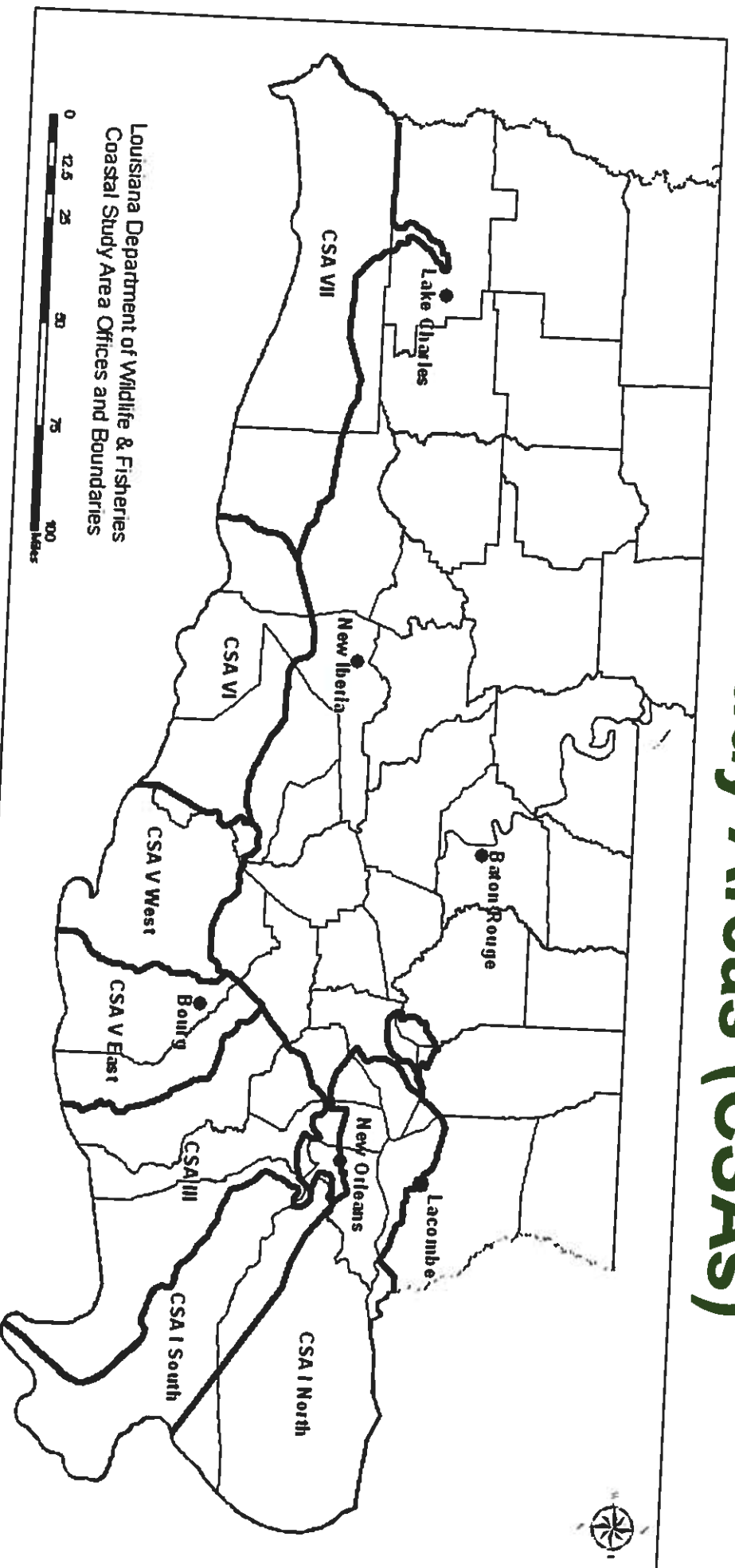
NOTE: 1994-2004 includes CSA I data revision. Excludes Sabine Lake

Preliminary data – subject to revision



LDWF Office of Fisheries – Marine Fisheries Section

Coastal Study Areas (CSAs)



PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>CSA</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Seed %</u>	<u>Sack</u>	<u>Sack %</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total %</u>
1N	299,773	55.6%	144,853	40.1%	444,627	49.4%
1S	26,521	4.9%	10,085	2.8%	36,606	4.1%
3	12,365	2.3%	6,214	1.7%	18,579	2.1%
5E	741	0.1%	172	0.0%	913	0.1%
5W	13,943	2.6%	8,172	2.3%	22,116	2.5%
7	185,605	34.4%	191,354	53.0%	376,959	41.9%
Total	538,948	100.0%	360,851	100.0%	899,800	100.0%

BOLD indicates increases over 2015 levels; *italicized* indicates decreases
 Availability in barrels (1 barrel = 2 sacks)

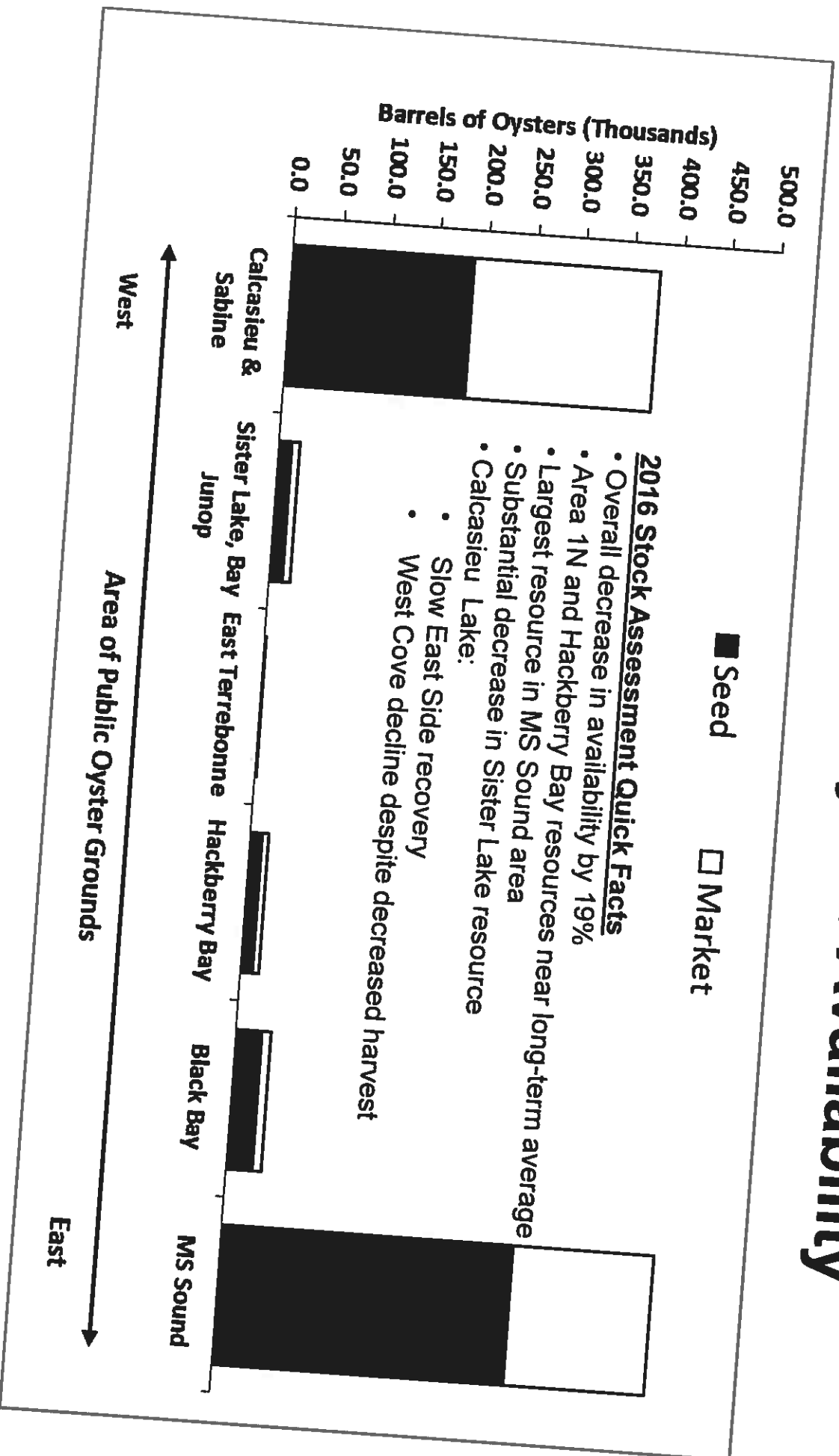
CSA Description

1N = Lake Borgne/MS Sound 1S = East of MS River, South of MRGO
 3 = Hackberry Bay 5E = Lake Chien/Felicity
 5W = Sister Lake/Bay Junop/Lake Mechant
 7 = Calcasieu & Sabine Lakes

Preliminary data — subject to revision



2016 Statewide Oyster Availability



PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

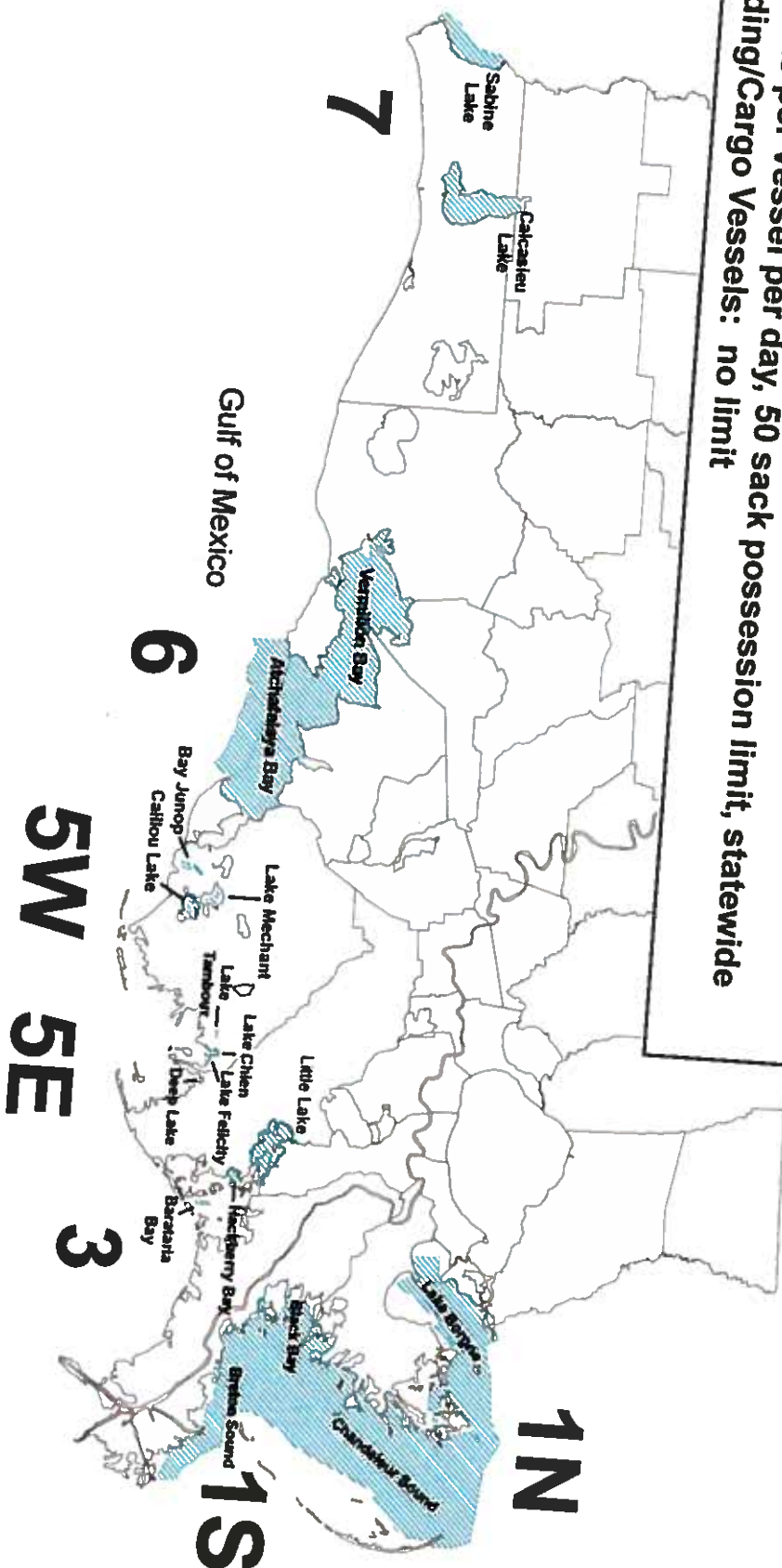
Preliminary 2016/2017 Season Recommendations

Louisiana Public Oyster Areas

- 1N:** -Primary Public Grounds East of MS River, N of MRGO,
Except Drum Bay (Sacking Only Area):
-Reopen:
September 7
- 1S:** -Primary Public Grounds South of MRGO:
-American Bay/Bay Long (Sacking Only Area):
November 14
CLOSED
- 3:** -Little Lake, Barataria Bay:
-Hackberry Bay Bedding (1 day):
November 14
CLOSED
- 5E:** -SACKING ONLY:
-Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake:
November 14
CLOSED
- 5W:** -Sister Lake:
November 14
CLOSED
- 6:** -Bay Junop & Lake Mechant:
September 7
CLOSED
- 7:** -Vermilion/Atchafalaya Bay Area:
September 7
CLOSED
- Calcasieu Lake & Sabine Lake:
September 7
CLOSED

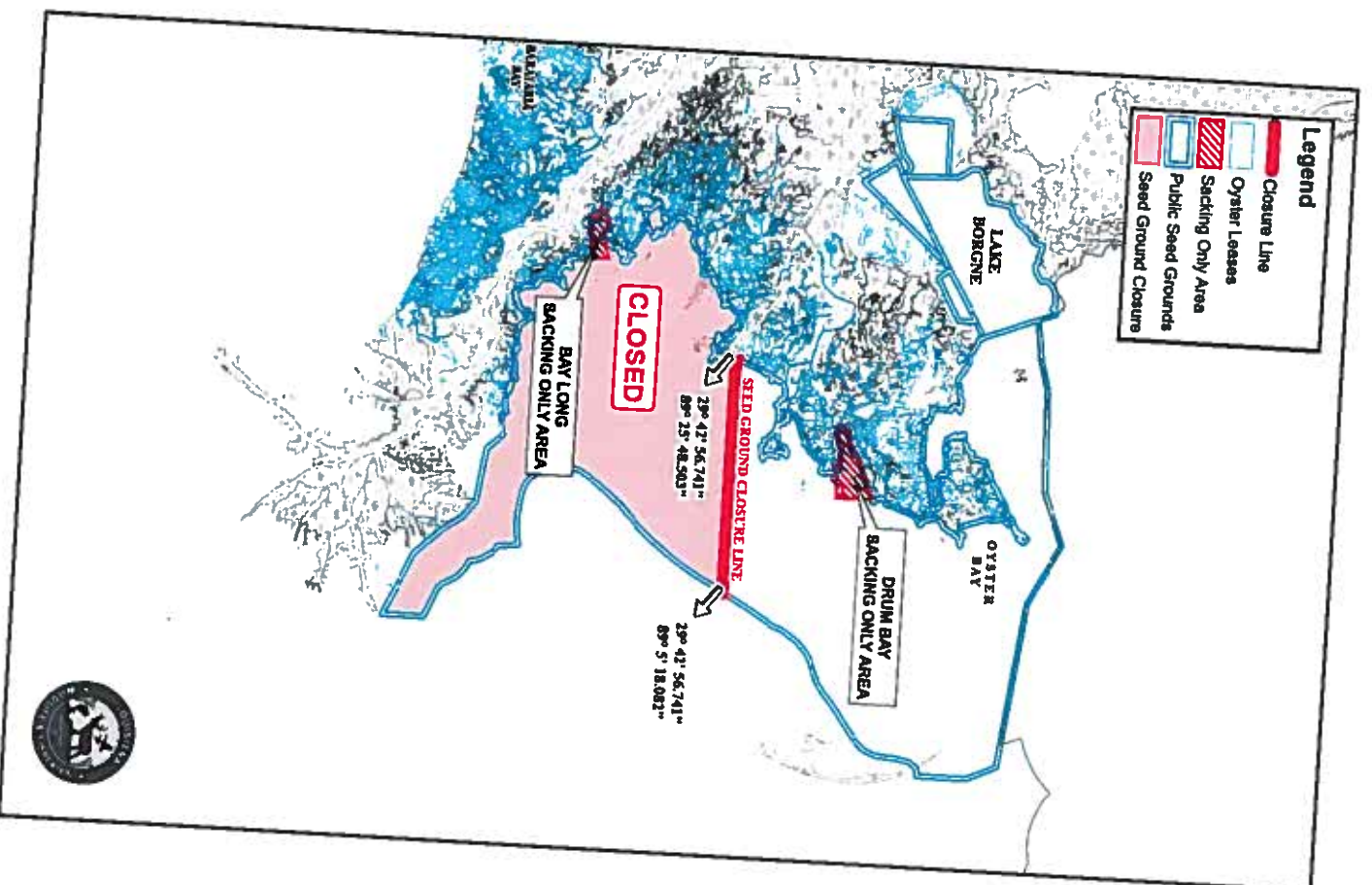
*** SACK LIMITS ***

50 sacks per vessel per day, 50 sack possession limit, statewide
Bedding/Cargo Vessels: no limit



Restrictions To Help Enforce Sack Limits

1. No sacks or other containers allowed on bedding vessels
2. Vessels are prohibited from harvesting for seed (bedding) and harvesting for market sales on the same day
3. When harvesting on public grounds, all oysters on-board are deemed to have been taken from the public grounds
4. Cargo vessels not subject to possession limit, BUT are not allowed to harvest at same time.



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(The following slides will only be used, if needed, for further explanation/discussion)

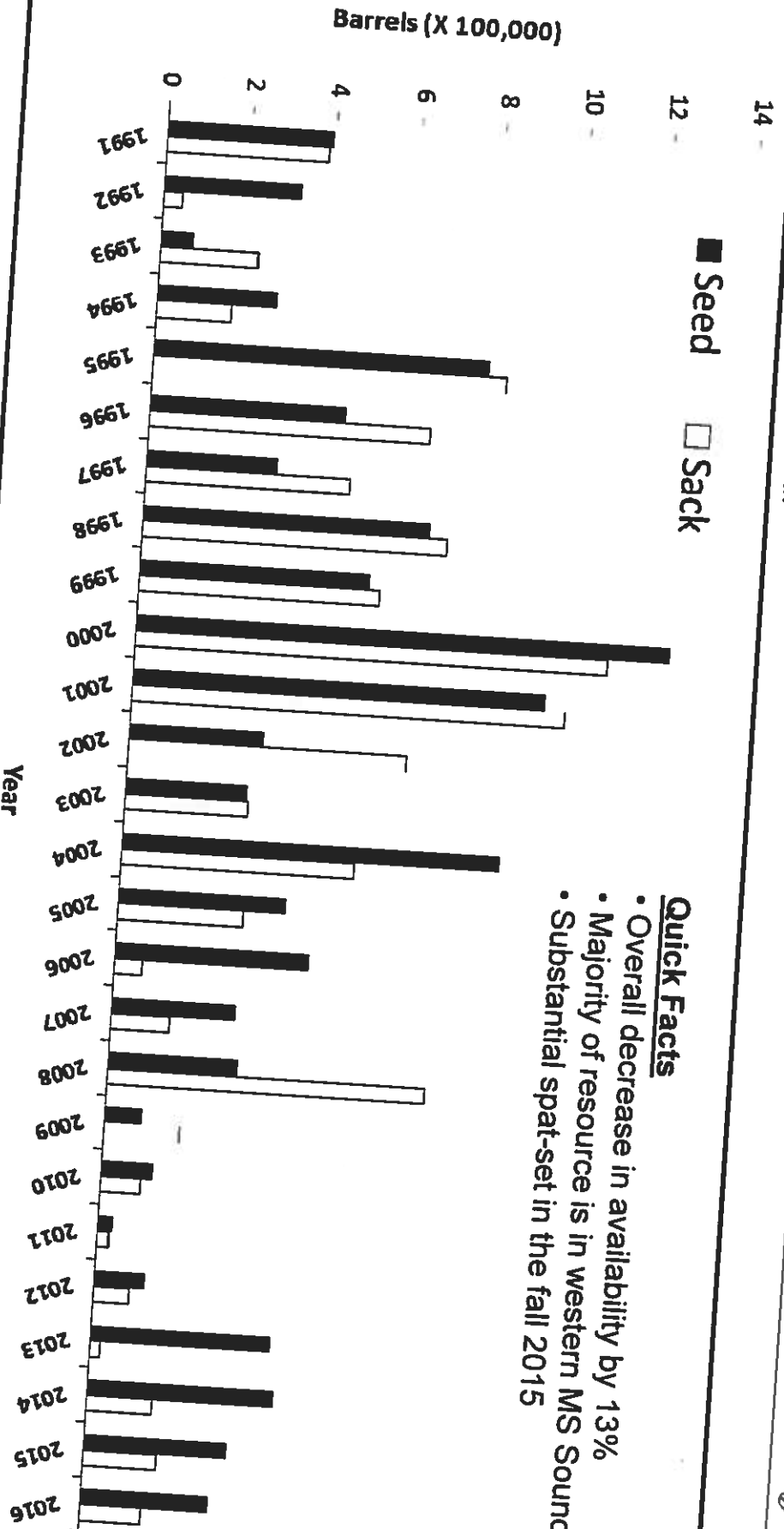
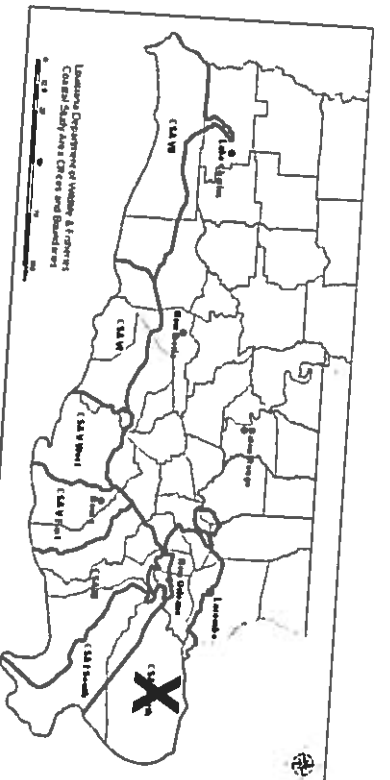
(Lake Borgne/MS Sound area)

2016

-11.0% seed

-15.7% sack

-12.6% total

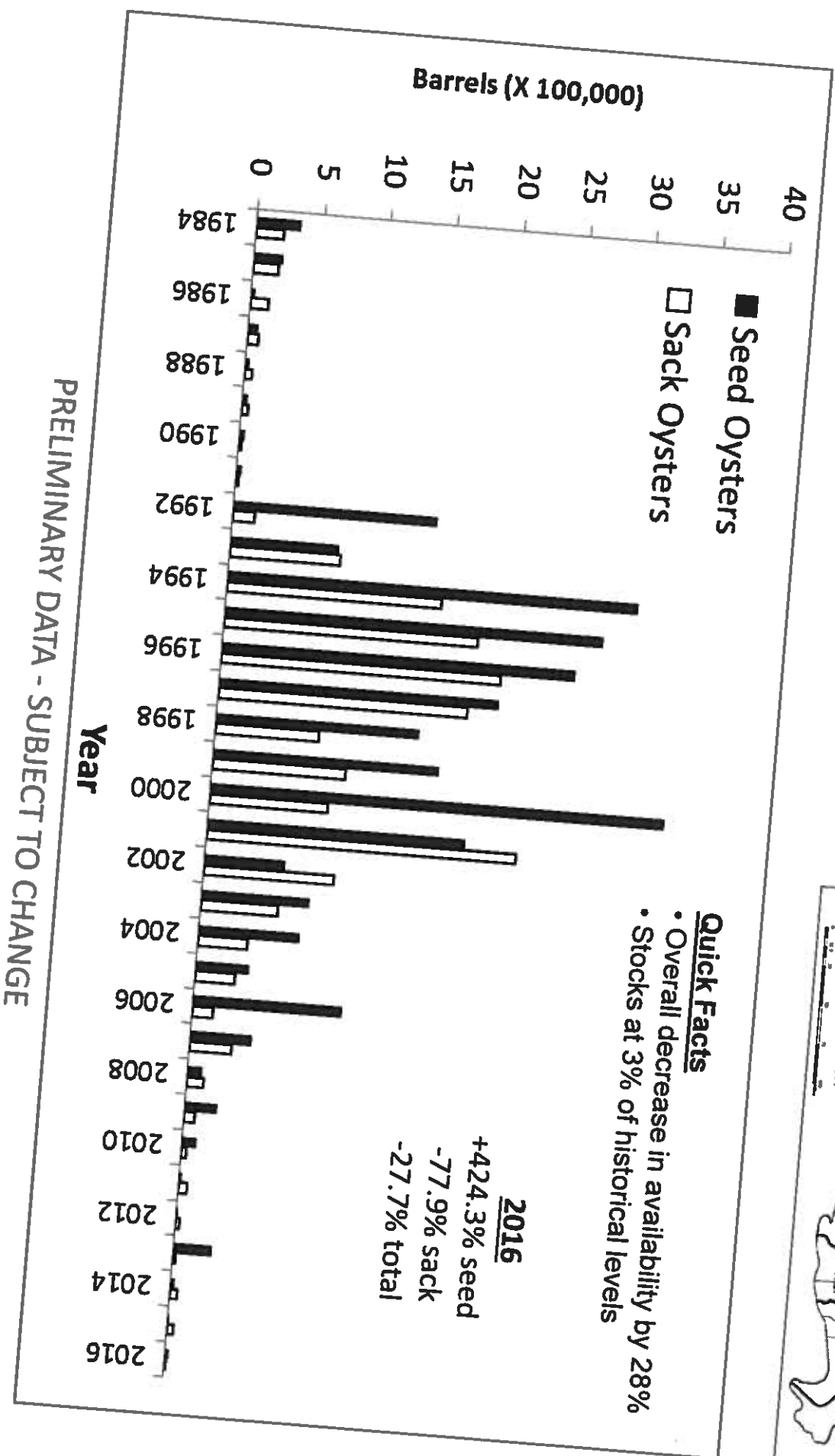
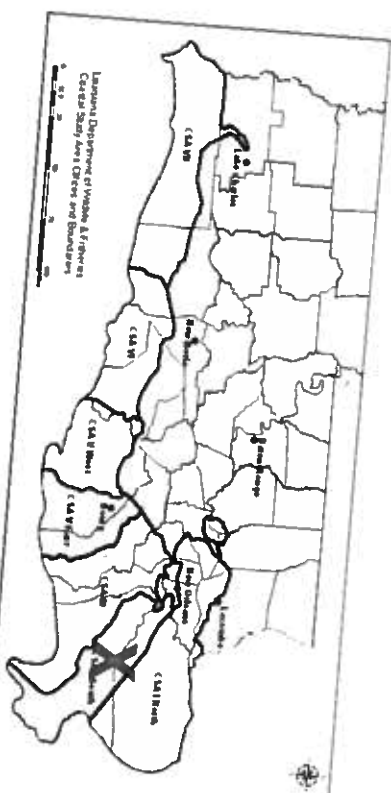


Quick Facts

- Overall decrease in availability by 13%
- Majority of resource is in western MS Sound
- Substantial spat-set in the fall 2015

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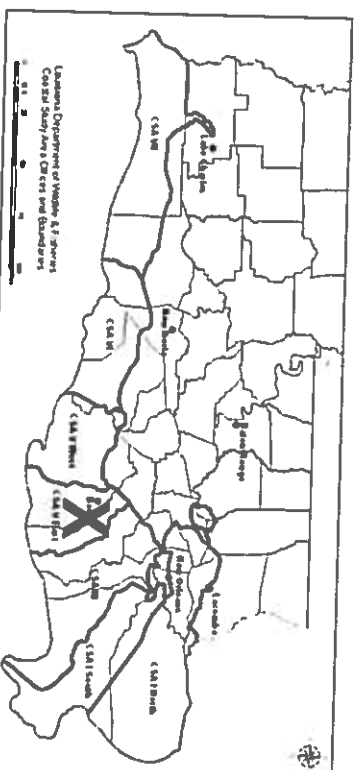
(Black Bay, Bay Gardene, Lake Fortuna, etc.)



[illegible]

CSA 5E

(Lake Chien and Lake Felicity)

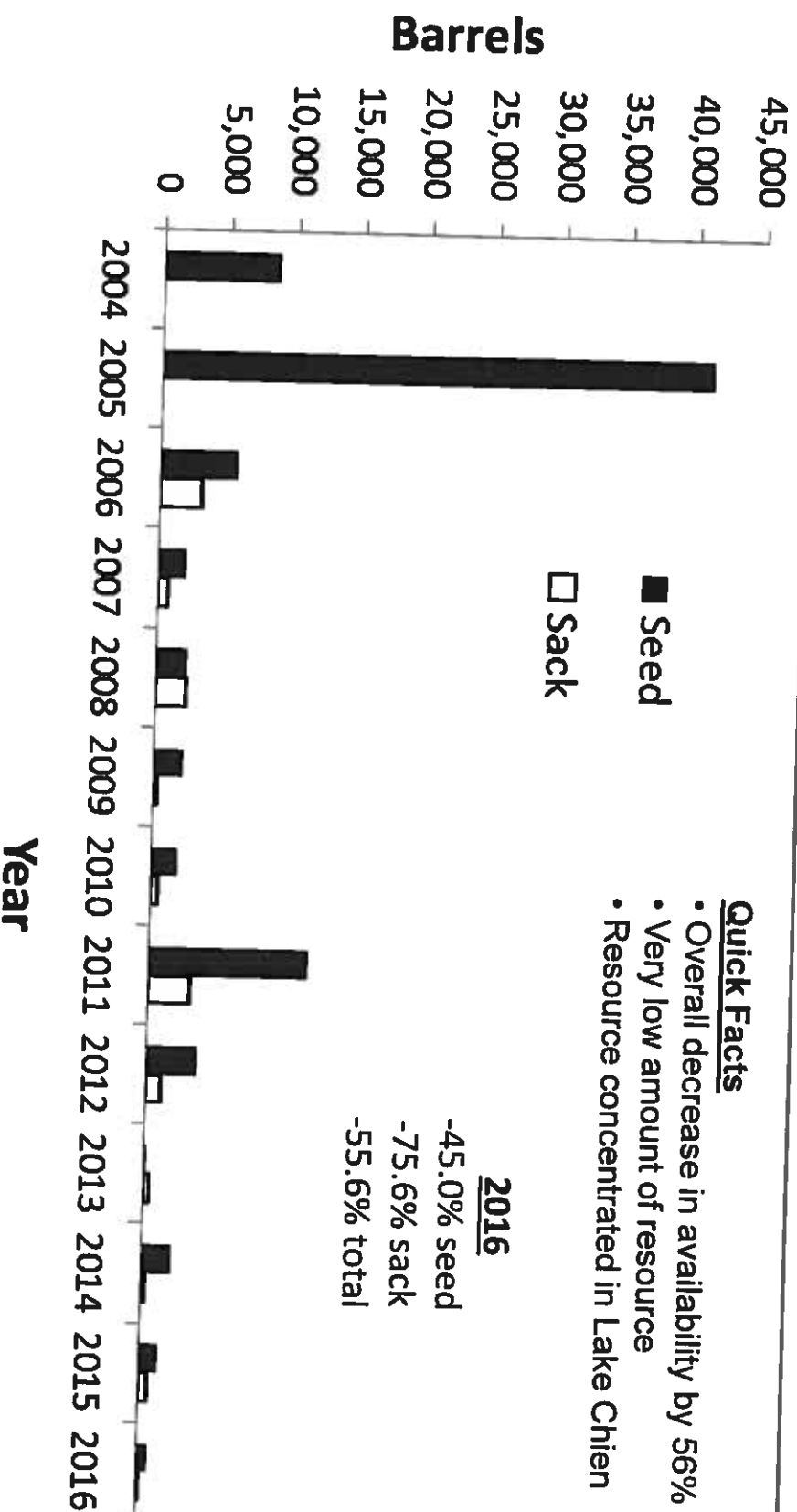


Quick Facts

- Overall decrease in availability by 56%
- Very low amount of resource
- Resource concentrated in Lake Chien

2016

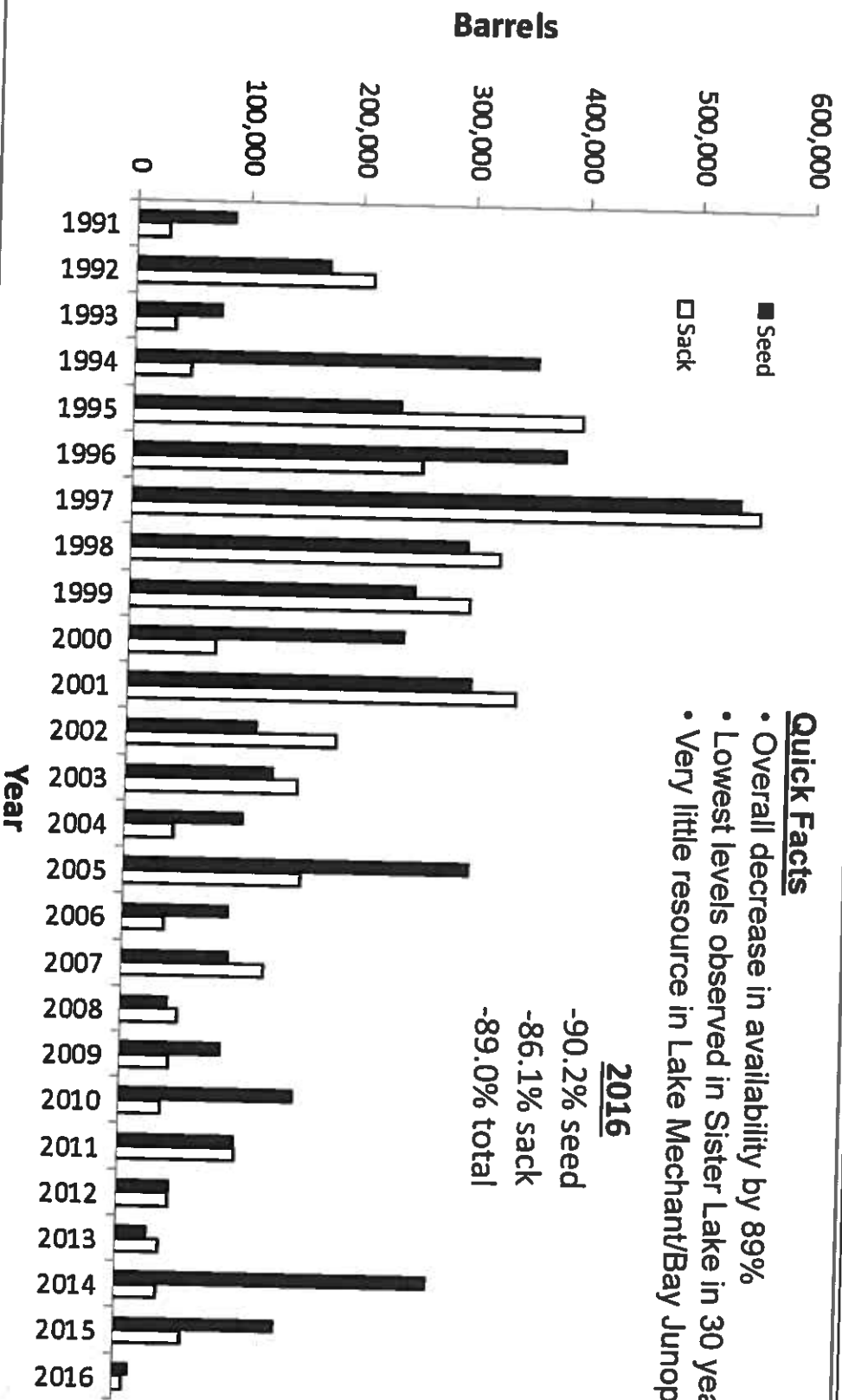
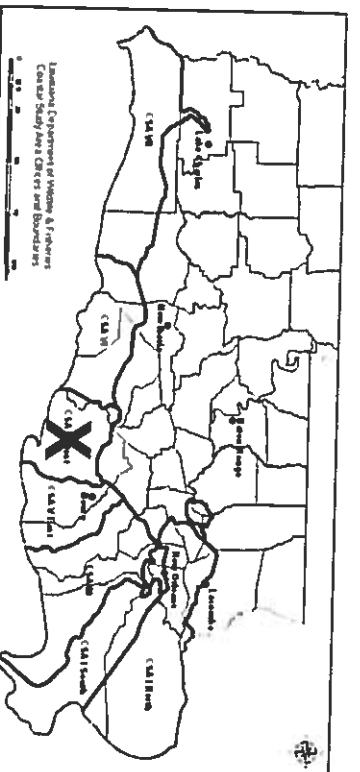
- 45.0% seed
- 75.6% sack
- 55.6% total



PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

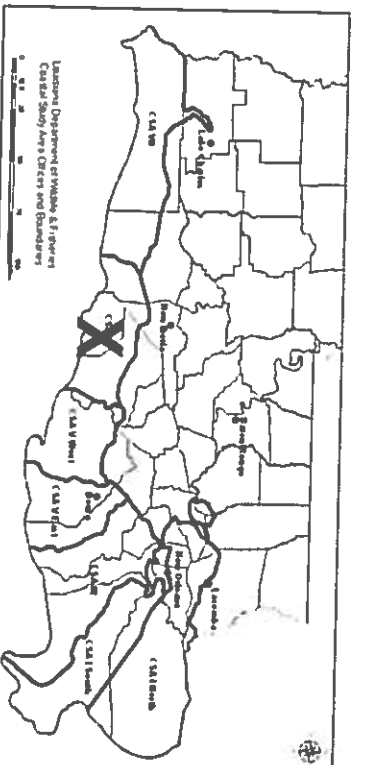
CSA 5W

(Sister Lake, Bay Junop, Lake Mechant)

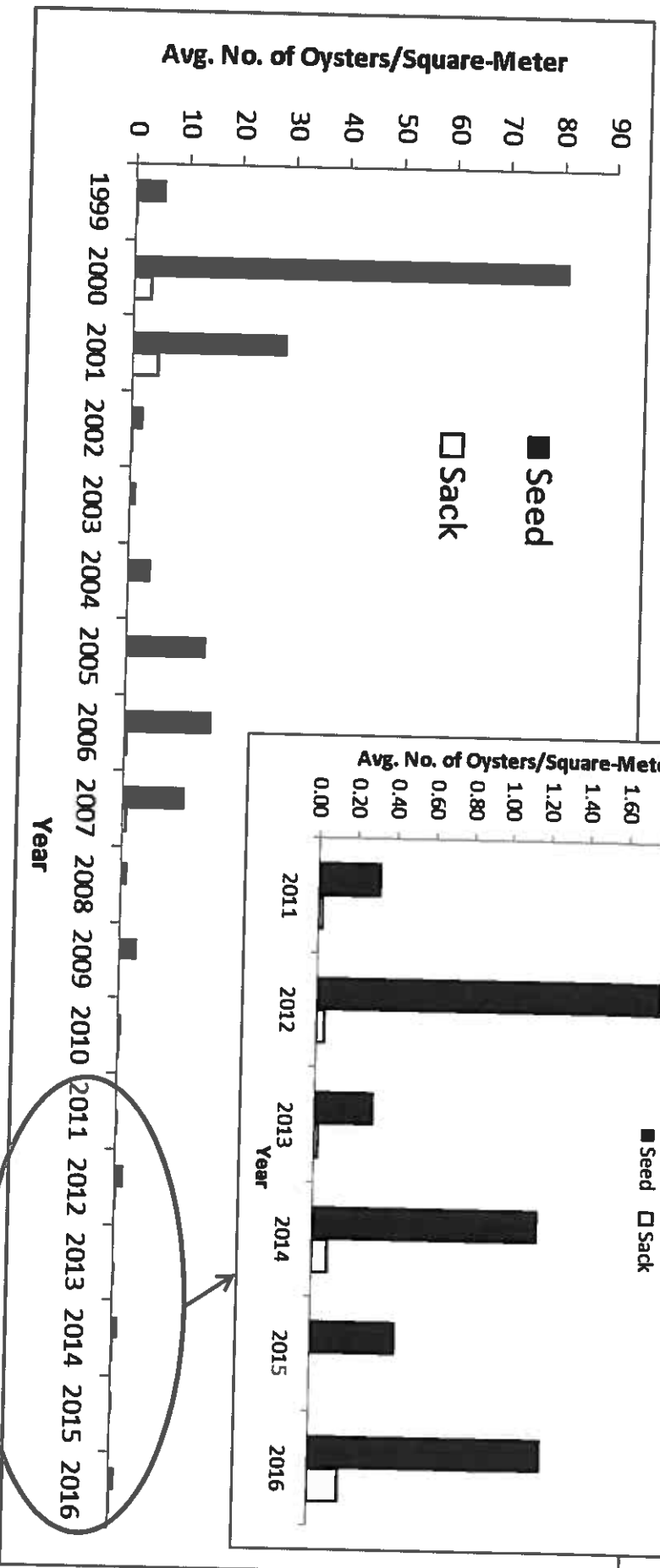


PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CSA 6 (Vermilion Bay Area)



2016
+175.0% seed
>0 sack
+211.7% total



PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CSA 7

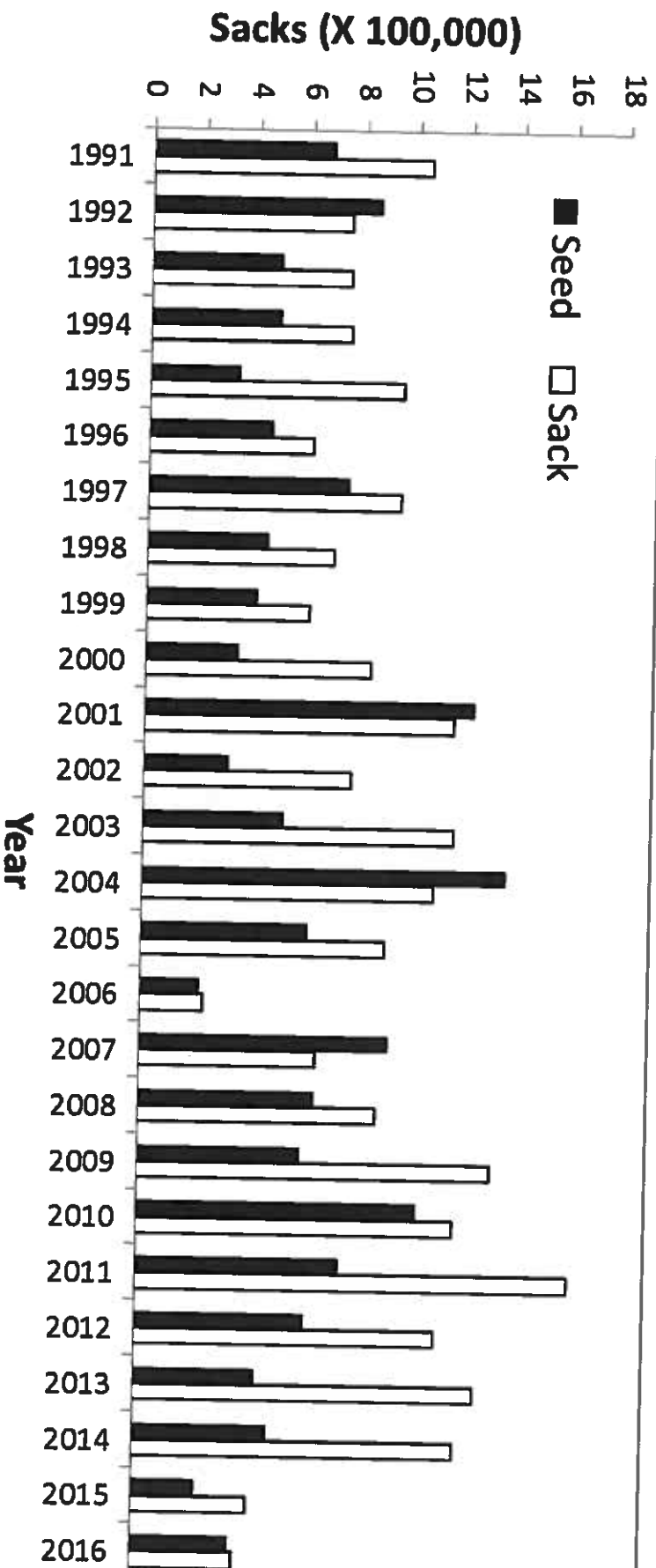
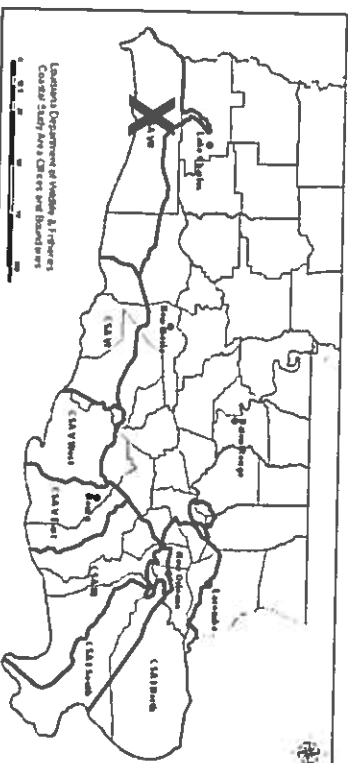
(Calcasieu & Sabine Lakes)

2016

+55.1% seed
-11.6% sack
+12.1% total

Quick Facts

- Overall increase of 12%
- Increase driven by Sabine seed
- Sabine still recovering from 2015 flood event
- Slow Recovery in Big Lake
- Decrease in West Cove despite decreased harvest



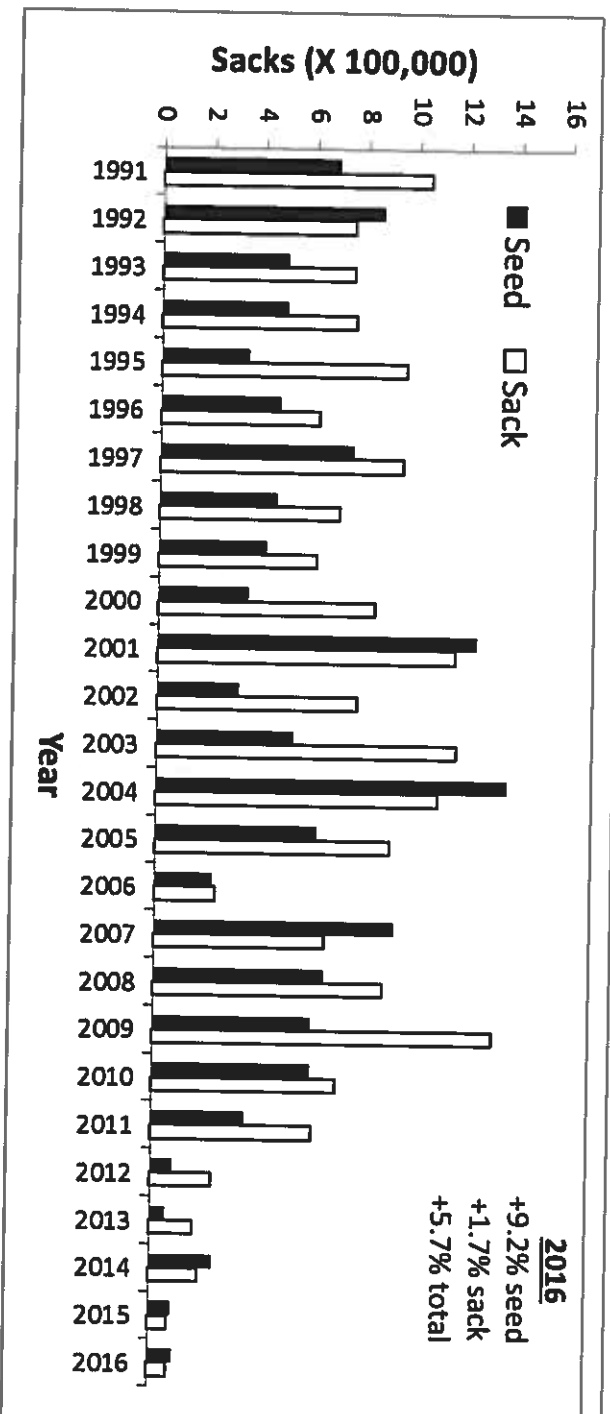
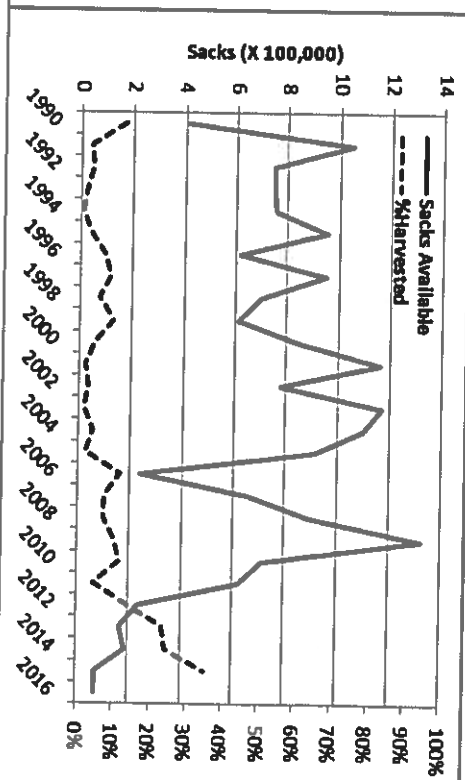
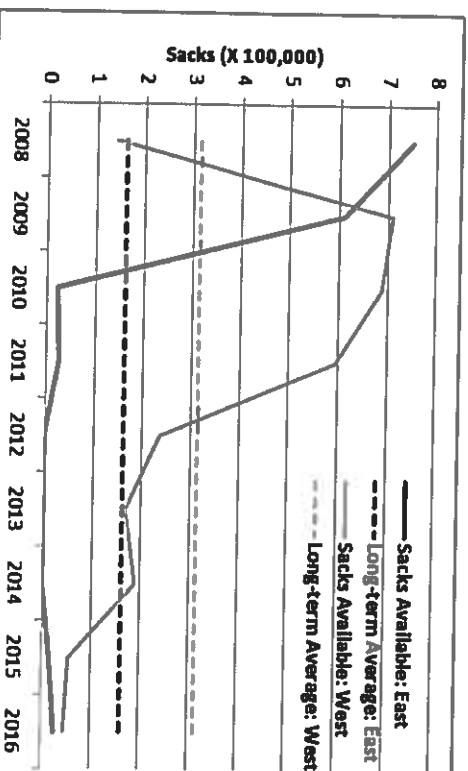
PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CSA 7

(Calcasieu Lake ONLY)

Additional Facts:

- Added 2 stations: fleet observation/extra sampling
- Both East and West Side <20% long-term stock size
- Harvesting larger percent of resource despite decreased landings/stock size



PRELIMINARY DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

September 1, 2016

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:953, and under the authority of R.S. 56:433, R.S. 56:435.1, and R.S. 56:435.1.1 notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declare the 2016/2017 oyster season as follows:

The public oyster seed grounds and reservations, as described in R.S. 56:434, Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 76:VII:507, LAC 76:VII:509, LAC 76:VII.511, LAC 76:VII.513, and LAC 76:VII.517, including Lake Borgne, east of the Mississippi River and north of a line extending east from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet at latitude 29 degrees 42 minutes 56.74 seconds N latitude and excluding Drum Bay (area defined below), Lake Mechant, Bay Junop, and the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. All areas, except for the Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche Bay/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds, shall close at one-half hour after sunset on Sunday, October 9, 2016. As per R.S. 56:433.B(1), no harvest of oysters for market sales is allowed on any public oyster area prior to the second Monday in October, which is October 10, 2016. Therefore, any and all vessels harvesting on the open public oyster

seed grounds between September 7, 2016 and October 9, 2016, both dates inclusive, shall be harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes only and shall not have sacks or other containers typically used to hold oysters for transport to market on board the harvest vessel. Bay Junop and the public grounds east of the Mississippi River and north of a line extending east from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet at 29 degrees 42 minutes 56.74 seconds N latitude (including the Drum Bay area defined below) shall re-open to harvest for market sales only at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 14, 2016.

There will be two sacking-only areas restricted to oyster harvest for market sales only: Drum Bay and American Bay. The Drum Bay sacking-only area is that portion of the public grounds west of a line running generally north/south of a point at 29 degrees 55 minutes 39.50 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 14 minutes 18.57 seconds W longitude to a point at 29 degrees 52 minutes 33.25 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 14 minutes and 11.95 seconds W longitude. The Drum Bay sacking-only area shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 14, 2016. The American Bay sacking-only area is that portion of the public grounds within Bay Long west of a line running generally north/south from a point at 29 degrees 31 minutes 13.78 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 9.79 seconds W longitude to a point at 29 degrees 29 minutes 40.67 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes and 8.48 seconds W longitude. The American Bay sacking-only area shall open

at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 14, 2016.

The Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation, as described in R.S. 56:434, shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 14, 2016. Hackberry Bay shall close to harvest of seed oysters for bedding purposes at one-half hour after sunset on Monday, November 14, 2016 but remain open for the harvest of oysters for market sales.

During the 2016/2017 open oyster season, the following provisions shall be in effect:

1. Any vessel from which any person(s) takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds and reservations described above shall:
 - a. Be limited to a daily take and possession limit not to exceed 50 sacks of oysters per vessel. A sack of oysters for the purposes of this declaration of emergency shall be defined as the size described in R.S. 56:440. The daily take and possession limit shall not apply to vessels harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes. The possession limit shall not apply to vessels operating under a valid Oyster Cargo Vessel Permit.
 - b. Be limited to either harvesting market oysters for direct sale (sacking) or harvesting seed oysters for bedding purposes on any one day and is specifically

prohibited from doing both.

2. If any person on a vessel takes or attempts to take oysters from the public oyster seed grounds or reservations described above, all oysters contained on that vessel shall be deemed to have been taken from said seed ground or reservation from the time harvest begins until all oysters are off-loaded dockside.
3. Prior to leaving public seed grounds or reservations with oysters harvested from said seed ground or reservation: all oysters must be sacked, the number of sacks shall be recorded in a log book, and each sack shall be properly tagged.
4. All vessels located in public seed grounds or reservations during those times between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise shall have all oyster dredges unshackled.

The following areas shall remain closed for the entire 2016/2017 oyster season:

1. The area east of the Mississippi River as described in LAC 76:VII:511, south of a line extending east from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet at latitude 29 degrees 42 minutes 56.74 seconds N latitude, excluding the American Bay area defined above.
2. The Bay Gardene and Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed

Reservations as described in R.S. 56:434.

3. The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII:521.
4. The Barataria Bay, Deep Lake, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, and Lake Tambour Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII:517.
5. The Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake Public Oyster Areas as described in R.S. 56:435.1 and R.S. 56:435.1.1.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to:

1. Close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of non-living reef material in seed oyster loads, or if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, or if enforcement problems are encountered; and,
2. Adjust daily take and/or possession limits as biological or enforcement data indicate a need; and,
3. Adjust sacking-only areas and/or restrict the taking of seed oysters as biological or enforcement data indicate a need.
4. Reopen an area previously closed if the threat to the

resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

The Secretary shall notify the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission of his intention to make any or all of the changes indicated above.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action unless such closure is ordered by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for public health concerns.

Chairman, LWFC

Proposed Cervid Carcass Importation Ban – Public Meetings

8/22/16 Lake Charles (88 attendees)

Mike Viator – Feels the regulation is overkill. So much is unknown about CWD. No central location to get information on state regulations.

Troy Cormier – Allow deer carcass to go to a certified processor or taxidermist. Require taxidermist and processor to dispose of deer carcass. Concerned about effects to LA economy due to loss of business from the ban. Something needs to be done to prevent CWD but this is too much.

Jeff Benoit – Concerned about losing business from Texas. I am a processor and most of my business comes from Texas. Why don't we educate people on proper waste disposal instead.

Michael Hollier – I support Mr. Benoit. Support proper disposal.

Josh German – Processor concerned about economic impact to both meat processors and taxidermist. 30-40% of my business comes from Texas. Asked other processors to give a show of hands. This is going to hurt us. I am USDA certified and already certified for worldwide importation. Already properly disposing of waste. Willing to pay fee for additional certification if needed. How do you regulate transportation via other vectors? Dirt, footwear, tires? Answer provided by LDWF staff. Those items are beyond regulatory authority.

Dwayne Boyd – Keep restriction to parts of deer with high concentrations of prions.

Eric Murphy – When will this go into effect? Process of NOI addressed by Chairman Yakupzack.

Steven German – USDA approved facility in LA. Suggests the state allow all USDA approved facilities to receive game from out of state because they are inspected and properly disposing of waste already.

Kevin Downs – This restriction will cause hunters who normally bring deer to processors to process their own deer and improperly dispose of carcass.

Vance Potter – How successful were the other states with bans? Let's look at this from another point of view. We don't have to copy what the other states have done. Look for new ways to slow the spread.

Brady Lebose – What exactly would be required to bring a deer from Texas back into LA? Answer provided by LDWF staff. Cold Storage facility for processing.

Timothy Deshotel – Over regulated already. Impeding on freedoms. This will hurt businesses. It will have a negative impact on the economy.

Bryan Ash – Delay implementation. Hardship on hunters to introduce a new regulation at this time. Begin this the following year.

Alvin Woods – Concerned about how to get a deer from Arkansas back into Louisiana. Only hunt 8 miles from state line. Answer provided by LDWF regarding on import requirement from Arkansas.

Dale Sharp – Orange Texas. Things need to be done but already booked and quoted prices to clients which include processing fees. Now I will have to cape and debone the animal. That will add significant cost to processing fees already quoted. This needs to be delayed. Postpone please. This ban will make my job more difficult and it will hurt my business as an outfitter.

Andrew Wagner – Allow quarters since disease concentration is in head and spine. Hunters understand the need to keep the disease out. Also, I don't want a stranger caping my deer and messing up a mount. I would like to be able to bring it to my taxidermist in LA because I trust him to do a good job.

Jeff Benoit – Question about handling guidelines and Health Recommendations. Answer provided by LDWF staff.

Joey Berken – Arkansas has had a ban since 05 and disease was not detected until 2016. But it was already in the state. We might be the same. Why not just address disposal of potentially infected material in our own state. We need to police ourselves because we are concerned. Sep up disposal sites for the public. Use education to prevent the disease.

Jonathan Hance – Questions plans for our own state monitoring. I only hunt in state so how will I be effected? What about products like deer urine? Answer provided by LDWF. Urine ban is not part of this proposal. Explained testing protocol.

Josh Foster – How will infected plants and imported feed be addressed? Hunters will be putting themselves more at risk by processing and possibly mishandling instead of taking to qualified and experienced processor.

Kevin Downs – Most of my concerns have already been addressed. Would like to allow quarters from Texas. Have drop off facilities for bones from out of state.

8/23/16 Monroe (41 attendees)

Carol McGarity – Lives in Arkansas and has a place on D'Arbonne, heart condition and diet of venison. Concerned about industry. Billion dollar industry between Arkansas, Mississippi and LA. Concerned about the way the law is set up. It will cause a loss of jobs. Concerned that carcasses will end up in waterways if they can't bring them to processors. Recommend not allowing hunters to feed deer all year. OK to feed them in hunting season.

BJ DeFries – We hunt TX. Heads and horns are the issue. TX requires head to stay with animal. Very difficult because of differences between states.

Jeffery Taylor – How big would the CWD control area be if it's found in LA? Answer by LDWF. How will it affect neighboring states? Allow reciprocal properties. Can scavengers spread the disease? Answer by LDWF.

Roger Hinsley – Club that is in 3 states. LA, Arkansas and Mississippi. We bring 200-300 deer annually to the same Louisiana processor. This will hurt his business.

Matthew Colvin – Opposed due to impacts on local economy and problems with sex id requirements from other states.

Justin Cannon – Recommend strict enforcement of taxidermy and processor industry rather than everyone. Make them dispose of parts properly.

Ken Roark – Ashley Co. Arkansas. Agree with Mr. Cannon. Require taxidermist and processors to dispose of properly.

David Spier – Same recommendation as Mr. Cannon. Require taxidermist and processors to dispose of properly.

Bob Lane – Allow bordering property to be exempt because it is entered through Louisiana. No place to process before returning.

Tommy Smith – Hunt in Kansas and kill deer. How do I transport to LA? Answer provided by LDWF. Tell Texas to do their job with all of these pens and positive deer moving around.

Seth Vidrine – I am a 12 year taxidermist. Government wants to turn us all into criminals. This is just a power play to control us. Aimed at writing more tickets and more revenue for LDWF. This will cause trouble for my business. 1/3 of my deer come from outside of LA. They hurt us last season by closing the season in January in NE LA. Now they are coming up with more ridiculous rules to turn us all into criminals and control us. Our comments are not going to the Commission. Contact the commission directly.

David Christman – Taxidermist for 30 plus years. Former poultry farmer. We need to work together and use taxidermist as a solution to this problem. Proper disposal and sources for testing. Willing to do whatever is required to help but current proposal will cause a loss of business. In addition, it may not be

effective in keeping the disease out. People will find someone else to mount the deer. That person may not properly dispose of animals. Please consider working with taxidermist. ½ of business is from out of state. Thanked the LDWF Commission for considering these meetings and allowing them to speak on the issue.

Andy Brister – What are Mississippi guidelines? Answer provided by LDWF but hunters recommended hunters check with other states before hunting. Would like exemption for properties neighboring LA.

Michael Dean – Taxidermist. I would like to have more presence from LDWF. Willing to properly dispose and provide samples. I want to be part of the solution. Please consider working together. Thank you.

Mike Wood – What is impact on the overall population in the states where CWD is established? Answer by LDWF. Most states the prevalence is low. Parts of Wyoming and Colorado have seen declines in Mule Deer but most states have discovered the disease in the past decade. Will the presentations be available online? LDWF will make them available directly to anyone requesting and pursue adding to website.

Kenny Graham – Secretary / treasurer for HC in Arkansas. What is deboned? Answer: All bone removed.

Betsy Clooney – Suggests distance restrictions instead of state line restrictions.

David Speir – Delay implementation to the following year to give advanced noticed to hunters so they can be better prepared.

Rodney Denton – Better to properly dispose or leave on site? Answer: LDWF, leave on site followed by proper disposal as a last resort.

8/24/16 Minden (4 attendees)

Jim Ezell - Only saw the notice once in the Shreveport paper. Questions regarding possession requirements. Answers by LDWF.

8/25/16 Woodworth (7 attendees)

Robert Dukes – Taxidermist Rapides. Thanked LDWF and LDWF Commission for providing the opportunity for comment. All taxidermist to be part of the solution and require proper disposal. Fear is someone else may accept the deer and not properly dispose of remains. Consider working with taxidermist and use us to help with the problem. Thank you.

Christy Richard – Taxidermist Lafayette. Concerned with the regulation potentially becoming effective in October. Not enough time for education of hunters. Taxidermist would like to be part of the solution. Proper disposal and any other regulations would be acceptable if whole heads are allowed into the state. Question: When is next LDWF Commission meeting? September 1st. Explained NOI process. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to comment and participate in the process. Plan on attending Lafayette and the LDWF Commission meeting. I would like to help prevent CWD from entering the state. We want to help but the proposal will hurt business. Please consider alternatives that allow taxidermist to properly dispose of carcasses. Thank you.

Comments

- Support: 10 (1 phone, 9 email)(LA Bowhunter.com)(LA Chapter of QDMA)(QDMA National Organization)
- Neutral: 14 (Questions regarding proposed regulation)(2 phone, 3 email, 6 public hearing)
 - Questions regarding disease transfer regarding cervid carcass parts and clarification of proposed regulation.
- Negative: 123 (80 email, 37 public hearing, 2 mail, 4 phone)
 - Primary complaints involve possession requirements in other states, reciprocal properties located in two states, difficulty in taxidermy requirements, negative impacts to taxidermist, negative impacts to meat processors, concerns regarding the effectiveness of this regulation, and inconvenience.

Exemption Amendment Proposed by Commissioner Sunseri

"Wildlife legally taken and exported from a state or country outside of Louisiana may be shipped into Louisiana by common carrier, except cervid carcasses or cervid carcass parts. The importation, transportation, or possession of cervid carcasses or cervid carcass parts taken from or legally obtained outside of the State of Louisiana is prohibited, except for meat that is cut and wrapped; meat that has been boned out; quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column attached; hides or capes from which all excess tissue has been removed; antlers; antlers attached to skull plates or skulls cleaned of all muscle and brain tissue; upper canine teeth; and finished taxidermy products. Carcasses or parts of carcasses listed above may be transported into the state only if they are reported to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries "Cervid Hotline" prior to entering the state of Louisiana and then taken to a licensed meat processor or licensed taxidermist within 24 hours (24) hours of entry. All cervid carcasses or cervid carcass parts shall be enclosed in a heavy duty construction bag or similar heavy duty disposable plastic container upon entry into the State of Louisiana. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries "Cervid Hotline" shall give the importer an "identification number" for the cervid carcasses or cervid carcass parts imported into the State of Louisiana with a destination to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist. Licensed meat processors and taxidermists shall contact the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries "Cervid Hotline" with the identification number given to the importer and shall dispose of the discarded tissue, bones, and parts enclosed in a heavy duty construction bag or similar heavy duty disposable plastic container in a properly permitted landfill.

Laws needed to be written and passed by the State legislature in the next Legislative Session

1. Cervid Hotline legislation funded by licenses listed below
2. Cervid carcasses or cervid carcass parts import license
3. DWF License for Taxidermist
4. DWF License for Cervid Meat Processors

Amendment Proposed by Commissioner Courville

B. No person shall import, transport or possess any cervid carcass or part of a cervid carcass originating outside of Louisiana, except: for meat that is cut and wrapped; meat that has been boned out; quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached deboned meat, antlers, clean skull plates with antlers, cleaned skulls without tissue attached, capes, tanned hides, finished taxidermy mounts and cleaned cervid teeth. Approved parts or deboned meat (as noted above) transported from other states must be legally possessed from the state it was taken. Approved parts and deboned meat (as noted above) from other states must contain a possession tag with the hunter's name, out-of-state license number (if required), address, species, date and location (county and state) of harvest. Any and all bones shall be disposed of in a manner in where its final destination is at a Type II landfill or equivalent. All cervids transported into or through this state in violation of the provisions of this ban shall be seized and disposed of in accordance with Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries rules and regulations.

Said Rule shall be effective March 1, 2017.